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NEW AMAZING STORIES



NO
35

Sinister TALES

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NO, NO,
ANT-MAN!
STAY BACK!!
IT'S A *TRAP*!
DON'T TRY
TO SAVE
ME!

IT'S NO
USE! -GASP-
HE CAN'T HEAR
ME! *NOTHING*
CAN SAVE US
NOW!

THAT'S *IT*, ANT-MAN!
YOU'VE BLUNDERED INTO MY
TRAP! AND NOW, WHEN I PULL
THIS SWITCH, I'LL BE RID OF
YOU -- *FOREVER!*

MORE VILLAINOUS,
MORE DEADLY THAN
EVER!
DON'T DARE MISS...
*"THE RETURN OF
EGGHEAD!"*



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SINISTER TALES No. 35

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ANT-MAN and THE WASP CAUGHT IN "THE TERRIBLE TRAPS OF EGGHEAD!"

THIS TIME YOU LOSE, ANT-MAN! THIS TIME YOU DIE! THE MOST PERFECT ANT KILLER IN THE WORLD... **THE ANT-EATER!** LOVELY, ISN'T IT, ANT-MAN? A LOVELY, INTRICATE SCHEME TO TRAP YOU, AND THEN... THE SIMPLE, FOOL-PROOF, ESCAPE-PROOF **END OF ANT-MAN!**

FEAR IS RUNNING THROUGH THE ANTS LIKE WILDFIRE! THEY CAN'T HELP US THIS TIME, ANT-MAN! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO **DO?**

IT'S THE MOST DEADLY TRAP WE'VE EVER BEEN IN! BUT THERE HAS TO BE A WAY OUT... **THERE HAS TO!**

PLOT.....STAN LEE
SCRIPT.....H.E. HUNTLEY
ART.....DON HECK
LETTERING...ART SIMEK

EGGHEAD, THE MOST BRILLIANT ANTAGONIST THE ANT-MAN HAS EVER FACED, RETURNS AGAIN, HIS TWISTED MIND EATEN WITH BITTERNESS AND THE GALLING ACHE FOR VENGEANCE! NO LIVING MAN HAD EVER DEFEATED THE SINISTER SCIENTIST BEFORE, EXCEPT THE ANT-MAN, AND THAT DEFEAT MUST BE WIPED OUT...

LET US GO BACK FOR A MOMENT AND RECAPTURE THE THRILLS OF THE FIRST TIME THAT EGGHEAD AND ANT-MAN CLASHED! REMEMBER, IT BEGAN WHEN THE EVIL MENTAL MASTER WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER...



YOU ARE BENEATH CONTEMPT! A MAN WITH YOUR GREAT MENTALITY AND SCIENTIFIC GENIUS, ATTEMPTING TO SELL SECRET ATOMIC INFORMATION...

BAH! TO A GENIUS LIKE ME, YOUR INSIPID PATRIOTIC PHRASES ARE LAUGHABLE! I SHEER AT YOU ALL!

CONTACTED BY THE UNDERWORLD, EGGHEAD AGREED TO CONCENTRATE HIS GREAT BRAINPOWER ON DESTROYING THE ANT-MAN! WITH COLD, SCIENTIFIC PRECISION HE UNDERTOOK HIS DANGEROUS TASK...



ANT-MAN UNDOUBTEDLY COMMUNICATES WITH THE INSECTS HE USES! I MUST FIND A WAY TO DO THE SAME AND TURN HIS OWN ANTS AGAINST HIM!

FINALLY... COMPLETED... A MACHINE THAT CAN TRANSLATE WORDS INTO ELECTRONIC IMPULSES WHICH THE ANTS WILL PICK UP THROUGH THEIR ANTENNAE! NOW I WILL INVADE THE ANT-MAN'S OWN DOMAIN!



EGGHEAD QUICKLY PUT HIS SCHEME TO WORK! HE COMMUNICATED WITH THE ANTS!

OBEY MY INSTRUCTIONS, YOU OF THE ANT KINGDOM, AND I SHALL FREE YOU FROM ANT-MAN'S RULE!



WITH THE HELP OF THE CRIMINALS WHO EMPLOYED HIM, EGGHEAD COMMITTED A COLORFUL ROBBERY TO LURE ANT-MAN TO THE SCENE! AND THEN...



HA, THE BELLOWS SUCKED YOU UP AND DROPPED YOU IN THE BOX LINED WITH FLYPAPER! YOU'RE HELPLESS!

NOT QUITE, EGGHEAD! THESE ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED SPRINGS IN THE BOTTOM OF MY SHOES CAN BREAK THE FLYPAPER'S HOLD!



THEN, AIDED BY HIS ANTS, ANT-MAN USED SOME FLYPAPER OF HIS OWN... A HUGE SHEET THE ANTS DROPPED UPON THE FLEEING CRIMINALS!



EGGHEAD HAD MADE HIS ESCAPE AND, IN HIDING, LISTENED TO ANT-MAN EXPLAIN HOW HE HAD DEFEATED THE UNSCRUPULOUS SCIENTIST...

EGGHEAD TRIED TO APPEAL TO THE ANTS' SENSE OF GREED AND VANITY! BUT INSECTS HAVE NO SUCH EMOTIONS! EGGHEAD MISUNDERSTOOD THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE ANTS... THEY AREN'T MY SLAVES, THEY ARE MY FRIENDS AND PARTNERS!



DEFEATED, HUNTED, THE ONCE BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, HIS CONFIDENCE SHAKEN, BECAME A BUM IN A BOWERY FLOPHOUSE!

ALL HE DOES IS MUTTER ABOUT ANTS! MUST BE SOME KINDA NUT!

THE ANTS... THEY WERE TOO SMART FOR ME... THEY DEFEATED ME... THE ANTS DEFEATED ME!



YES, IT ALL HAPPENED MONTHS AGO! BUT LAST NIGHT, IN THAT SAME FLOPHOUSE...

HE GOT ALL THE OTHERS! WE WERE LUCKY TO GET AWAY, TWISTER!

YEAH! I TELL YUH, APE, WITH THE ANT-MAN LOOSE, AN HONEST CRIMINAL DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE! 'SPECIALLY NOW HE'S GOT THE WASP WITH HIM...



WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID? YOU SPOKE OF THE ANT-MAN!!

LET GO, YUH KOOK! FORGET WHAT I SAID! ME AN' APE AIN'T BEEN HERE IF THE COPS ASK YOU! GET IT?!!



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE ANT-MAN DEFEATED ME, TOO! LISTEN, WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER!

SHOULD I SQUASH THIS BUM, TWISTER?

HOLD IT, APE! IT WON'T HURT TO LISTEN!



IT HAD BEEN BUILDING UP INSIDE HIM, THE HATE, THE NEED FOR REVENGE AND SUDDENLY DESPAIR LEFT EGGHEAD TO BE REPLACED BY A DRIVING, VICIOUS NEED TO ENCOUNTER AGAIN THE MAN WHO DEFEATED HIM!

I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHO I AM AND THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND! A PLAN IS BEGINNING TO FORM IN MY MIND! YOU MENTIONED THE WASP! TELL ME ALL ABOUT HER...





"...AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY! ANT-MAN AND THE WASP ARE PARTNERS NOW!... LOOK, I REMEMBER HOW YOU ALMOST BEAT THE ANT-MAN! APE AND ME'LL WORK WITH YOU!!"



GOOD! FIRST, WE MUST FIND SOME HIDDEN PLACE WHERE I CAN SET UP A LABORATORY... AND I MUST TAKE A NEW IDENTITY! YES, THE PLAN IS BEGINNING TO FORM...



EVERY MAN HAS HIS Achilles HEEL! WE WILL STRIKE AT ANT-MAN THROUGH HIS... THE WASP! WE WILL CAPTURE HER AND USE HER AS THE BAIT FOR OUR TRAP TO CAPTURE THE ANT-MAN!



AND THIS TIME I SHALL NOT FAIL! I KNOW MY ANTAGONIST BETTER, AND I AM MORE FULLY AWARE OF HIS POWERS! THROUGH THE WASP I SHALL CRUSH HIM FOREVER! FIRST, I SHALL NEED SOME SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT...



IN THE CELLAR OF A DESERTED BUILDING THE SINISTER TRIO MAKE THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS AS EGGHEAD SETS UP HIS LAB...

WITH THIS MACHINE, I'LL BE ABLE TO INTERCEPT, EVEN SCRAMBLE, MESSAGES THE ANTS SEND TO ANT-MAN...

OKAY, OKAY! BUT WHEN WE GONNA GET INTO HIGH GEAR?



SOON! FIRST, I MUST COMPLETE MY DISGUISE AND ESTABLISH MYSELF AS PROFESSOR CARL STRIKER, ZOOLOGIST! BE PATIENT...OUR FOE IS POWERFUL... WE MUST NOT FAIL A SECOND TIME!



THUS, EGGHEAD PUTS HIS PLAN INTO ACTION, STEP BY CAUTIOUS STEP!

...SO YOU SEE, DEAR LADIES, INSECTS CAN BE OUR FRIENDS, AS WELL AS OUR ENEMIES! THE PROBLEM IS TO UNDERSTAND THEM, TO STUDY AND APPRECIATE THE INTRICACIES OF THE INSECT WORLD! I THANK YOU!

WONDERFUL! A BRILLIANT LECTURE!

MOST INTERESTING MEETING WE'VE EVER HAD! SUCH A FASCINATING MAN!

AMONG THE LARGE AUDIENCE AT ONE OF PROFESSOR STRIKER'S LECTURES, ARE THE FAMOUS SCIENTISTS, HENRY PYM AND YOUNG JANET VAN DYNE, DAUGHTER OF THE DECEASED SCIENTIST, DR. VERNON VAN DYNE!

SOMEHOW THAT MAN, PROFESSOR STRIKER, SEEMS FAMILIAR, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE OR HOW WE MET!

HE MUST BE A VERY BRILLIANT MAN... HE SOUNDS SO SURE OF HIMSELF!



TO THOSE WHO SURROUND THEM IN THE CROWD THEY SEEM TO BE JUST A HANDSOME, SERIOUS, INTELLIGENT YOUNG MAN AND A LOVELY YOUNG GIRL, BUT, IN REALITY, THEY ARE--



THE TIME HAS COME! I'VE BEEN ASKED TO LECTURE AT THE CITY ZOO! IT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! WE WILL BUILD A FASCINATING EXHIBIT ABOUT... WASPS! I DON'T THINK THE REAL WASP... WHOEVER SHE IS... WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST IT!!

BUT HOW'S THAT GONNA CATCH ANT-MAN?

AND I'VE BEEN THINKIN' EGGHEAD... WHAT'S IN IT FOR US WHEN WE GET ANT-MAN?



FIRST, APE, I WILL USE BAIT TO CATCH THE WASP JUST AS I WILL USE HER AS BAIT TO CATCH ANT-MAN! ONCE THE ANT-MAN IS OUT OF THE WAY, I WILL MASTERMIND A SERIES OF PERFECT CRIMES THAT WILL MAKE US ALL AS RICH AS CROESUS AND COMPLETELY SAFE FROM THE POLICE! THAT SHOULD ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS!!

IN HIS LABORATORY, EGGHEAD AND HIS CRIMINAL COHORTS BEGIN THEIR WORK, AS THE RADIO BLARES...

EACH OF THESE EXHIBITS MUST BE PERFECT... POTTER WASP, MUD DAUBER, MASON WASP, PAPER WASP, BALD FACE HORNET...

...AND THE MIDDLETON DIAMOND HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE FAMOUS DIAMOND CUTTER, ANTON MYERS, TO CUT INTO A PENDANT FOR THE PRICELESS LADY ELIZABETH NECKLACE!



HEAR THAT? WE SHOULD BE...

YES, APE... AND WE WILL! THAT IS THE BAIT WE WILL USE TO LURE THE WASP INTO OUR CLUTCHES!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER AT THE ZOO...

PLACE THAT ONE OVER THERE!

DON'T KNOW WHY YOU CHOOSE THE REPTILE HOUSE FOR YOUR EXHIBIT AND LECTURE, PROFESSOR!

'CAUSE IT'S WARM! NOW LET'S HAVE LESS LIP, EH?



AFTER THE ZOO ATTENDANT LEAVES...

THAT GUY HAD A POINT! ONLY ONE THING IN THE WORLD I'M SCARED OF... SNAKES!

WE HAVE NO TIME FOR FEAR OF ANYTHING! LET'S GET BACK TO THE LAB...



AN HOUR LATER...

THIS IS A BLUEPRINT OF ANTON MEYER'S DIAMOND-CUTTING ESTABLISHMENT! THE EMINENT PROFESSOR STRIKER VISITED HIM THE OTHER DAY! HA! YOU SEE WHERE THE BURGLAR ALARM WIRES ARE SITUATED...



WOW! WITH A BLUEPRINT LIKE THAT, WE CAN'T MISS! WHEN DO WE HIT THE JOINT?

TONIGHT! TWISTER, THIS IS AN ELECTRONIC DEWELDING GUN I'VE CREATED! WITH IT, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BURN THE ALARM WIRES APART WITHOUT SETTING OFF THE ALARM! APE, YOU WILL CARRY MY INSECT MESSAGE INTERCEPTOR!



THAT NIGHT, A SLEEPING-GAS GUN TAKES CARE OF THE WATCHMAN IN THE DIAMOND CUTTER'S BUILDING.

QUICKLY, APE! GIVE ME THE MACHINE...

I'LL GET TO WORK ON THE ALARM WIRES!



I THINK IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER IF WE JUST GRABBED THE ICE, AND...

IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T TRY TO THINK, APE! YOU HAVEN'T THE EQUIPMENT! NOW I'LL SEND OUT ELECTRICAL IMPULSES THAT WILL JAM AND SCRAMBLE THE MESSAGES THE WATCHDOG ANTS WILL SEND THE ANT-MAN!



AND, IN HENRY PYM'S LABORATORY...



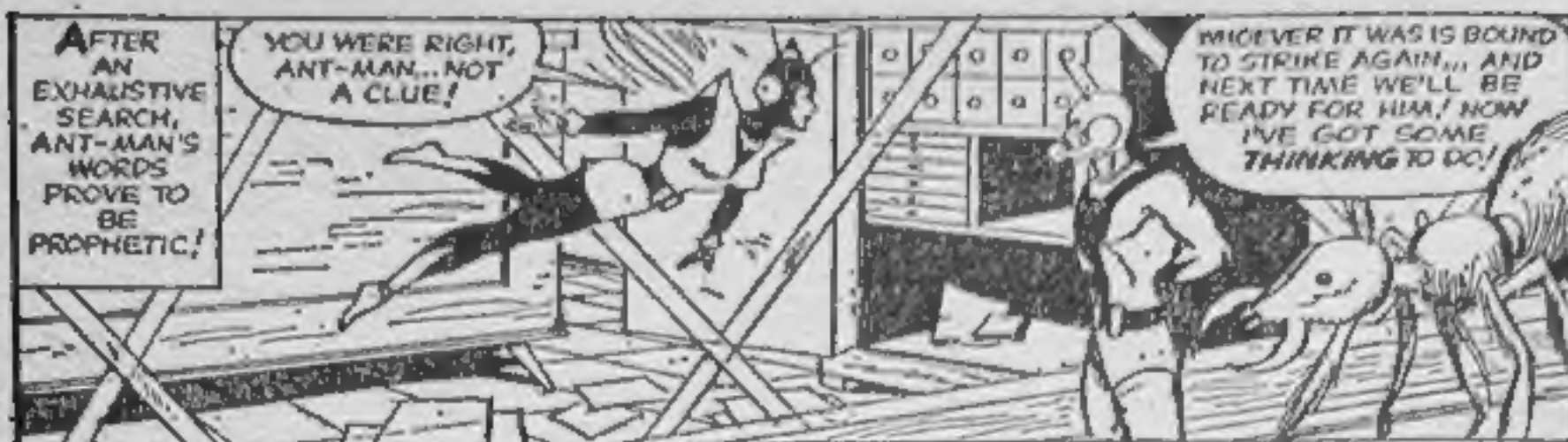
MESSAGE COMING IN FROM ANTS BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT! SOMEONE'S FIGURED OUT HOW ANT-MAN GETS HIS INFORMATION AND IS SCRAMBLING THE IMPULSES!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN THE APARTMENT OF THE LOVELY SOCIALITE PLAYGIRL, JANET VAN DYNE...



HELLO! YES, THIS IS SHE! ANT-MAN?! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!





AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH, ANT-MAN'S WORDS PROVE TO BE PROPHECIC!

YOU WERE RIGHT, ANT-MAN... NOT A CLUE!

WHICHEVER IT WAS IS BOUND TO STRIKE AGAIN... AND NEXT TIME WE'LL BE READY FOR HIM! NOW I'VE GOT SOME THINKING TO DO!



AND, AT THE SECRET LAB OF EGSEHEAD, ALIAS PROF. CARL STRIKER...

WE DID IT! NOW WE GOTTA FENCE THESE THINGS AND LAY LOW UNTIL...

FOOLS! ALL YOU SEE IS WHAT IS IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES! THESE ARE MERELY THE BAIT TO CATCH THE WASP, AND ANT-MAN!



BAIT? NO YUH DON'T! HAND 'EM BACK, BIG BRAIN OR I'LL PULVERIZE YA!

I'M WITH APE! WE GOT THE LOOT, WORTH MORE DOUGH THAN WE EVER DREAMED OF! WHO CARES ABOUT THE WASP AND ANT-MAN NOW?!

IDIOTS! ANT-MAN WILL EVENTUALLY TRACK YOU DOWN! YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE TO SPEND YOUR MONEY! YOU MUST TRUST ME! HAVEN'T I DONE WELL SO FAR?



...I GUESS SO...! ALL RIGHT, WE'LL STRING ALONG!

GOOD! NOW GET THAT FINE WIRE! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO AT THE ZOO...



FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT THE STRANGE TRIO WORK IN THE REPTILE HOUSE OF THE ZOO...



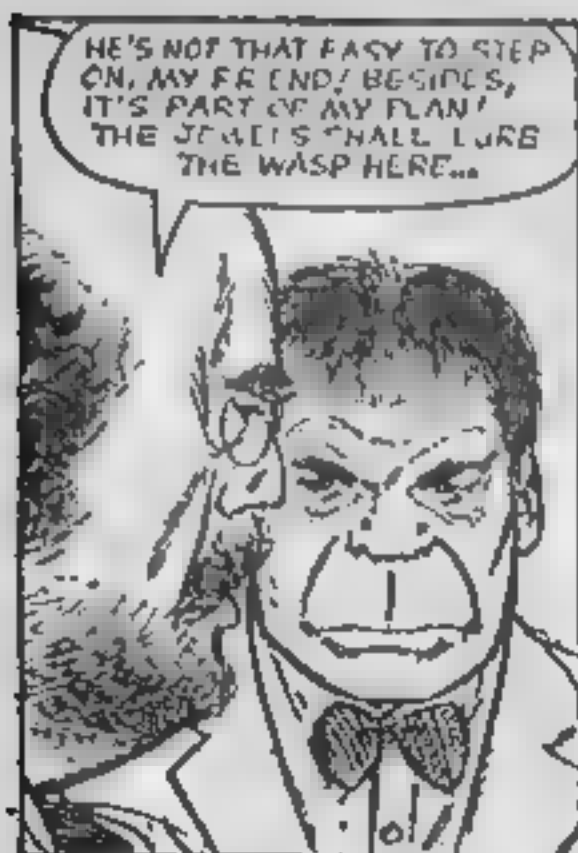
WHAT'S IN THIS BOX? IT'S SOMETHIN' ALIVE... AND IT WEIGHS PLENTY!

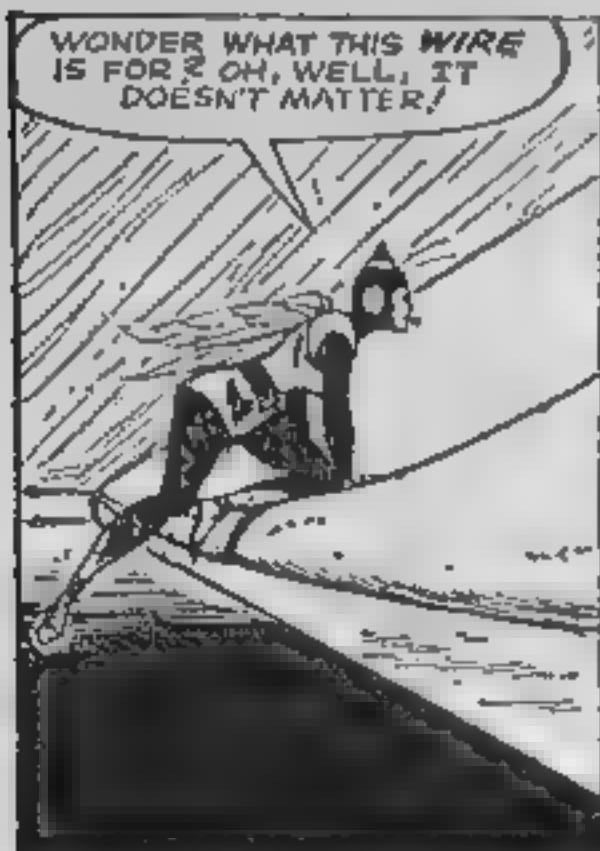
A SURPRISE FOR ANT-MAN! THERE, THE SWITCH IS IN PLACE! ONCE ANT-MAN ENTERS, I'LL PULL THE LEVER AND SEND ELECTRICAL CURRENT THROUGH THE WIRES WE'VE STRUNG AT EVERY CRACK THAT AN ANT CAN CRAWL THRU!



PUT THAT AQUARIUM UNDER THE NEST! NOW TO WIRE THE LITTLE TRAP DOOR AT THE BOTTOM!

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME! WHY DON'TCHA JUST STEP ON HIM WHEN HE SHOWS UP?





WONDER WHAT THIS WIRE IS FOR? OH, WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER!



SO INTENT IS SHE UPON HER PURPOSE THAT SHE FAILS TO SEE THE EYES WATCHING FROM THE SHADOWS!

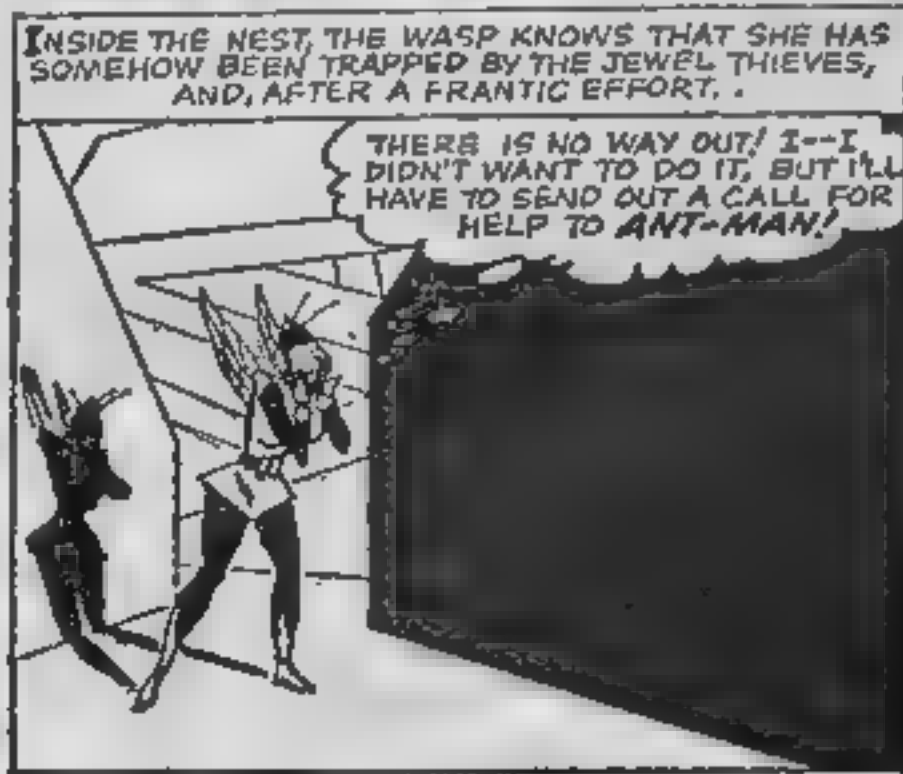
BE READY TO MOVE FAST NOW...



I'M INSIDE THE WASP'S NEST! BUT... WHAT IS THIS? SOME STRANGE SORT OF MAZE!



SHE'S TRAPPED! TWISTER, GET THE SHOES I'VE WIRED SO THE ANTS CAN'T CRAWL UP ON US! APE, GET THAT IGUANA AND PUT IT IN THE AQUARIUM! IN A FEW MINUTES THE WASP WILL BECOME FRANTIC AND SEND OUT HER SIGNALS TO ANT-MAN! WHEN HE ARRIVES WE'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO THE DEADLY SURPRISE WE'VE ARRANGED FOR HIM!



INSIDE THE NEST, THE WASP KNOWS THAT SHE HAS SOMEHOW BEEN TRAPPED BY THE JEWEL THIEVES, AND, AFTER A FRANTIC EFFORT, .

THERE IS NO WAY OUT! I--I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT, BUT I'LL HAVE TO SEND OUT A CALL FOR HELP TO ANT-MAN!



HER DELICATE ANTENNAE VIBRATE TREMULOUSLY AS THE MESSAGE IS SENT... AND...

FOOLISH GIRL! I'VE WARNED HER NOT TO TACKLE JOBS ALONE! IF ANY HARM COMES TO HER--!



MINUTES LATER...

PUT ON THE MAGNIFYING GOOGLES SO WE DON'T LOSE ANT-MAN!

SHE'S INSIDE!



AS ANT-MAN STEPS INSIDE THE NEST, THE MASTER CRIMINAL PULLS A SWITCH AND...



ANT-MAN, IT IS I, EGGHEAD!
I HAVE RETURNED TO
CONQUER YOU! YOU PLAY
THE MODERN KNIGHT, SO
I AM GIVING YOU A CHANCE
TO PROVE YOUR PROWESS
AS DID THE KNIGHTS OF
OLD! HERE IS YOUR
LANCE AND THERE IS...
YOUR DRAGON!

I WAS A
FOOL! I
SHOULD
HAVE
SUSPECTED!
ONLY YOU
COULD HAVE
THOUGHT OF
SUCH A
DIABOLICAL
SCHEME!



BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR
MORE CONVERSATION!

HE USED THE WASP TO
BAIT THIS TRAP! FOR THAT
ALONE I MUST PAY HIM
BACK! BUT FIRST, I MUST
DEFEAT THIS KUANA LIZARD!



ANT-MAN COUCHES HIS LANCE AS DID THE
KNIGHTS OF OLD, THEN SIGNALS TO HIS
ANT MOUNT...

CHARGE!

HISS-SS



SWERVING, AVOIDING THE LASHING
TONGUE AND SLASHING FEET OF
THE LIZARD, ANT-MAN CLOSSES IN
QUICKLY, HIS LANCE AIMED AT A
VULNERABLE SPOT...



I'VE
WON,
EGG-
HEAD!

NOT YET!! THIS IS
ONLY THE FIRST
ROUND! YOU'RE STILL
TRAPPED IN THAT
GLASS CASE...



THE ANT-SIZED HUMAN CROUCHES
LOW, PRESSING A TINY BUTTON IN
HIS BOOT, ACTIVATING AN ELEC-
TRONICALLY CONTROLLED SPRING...



BUT NOT
FOR LONG!

APE,
OPEN THE
CRATE DOOR!
HURRY!

CRASH!



WHERE IS THE WASP? ANSWER ME, EGGHEAD, IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!

THE WASP MEANS NOTHING TO ME! IT'S YOU I WANT, ANT-MAN... AND I'LL GET YOU YET!



HERE I AM, ANT-MAN! I FOUND THE OPENING YOU FELL THROUGH!

THANK, GOODNESS YOU'RE NOT HARMED! NOW, WITH THE AID OF OUR SOLDIER ANTS, WE'LL TACKLE EGG-HEAD AND HIS BULLY BOYS!



BUT WHEN ANT MAN TURNS AROUND...

THE SECOND TRICK IN MY BAG, ANT MAN AN ANT-EATER! THE MOST PERFECT WEAPON AGAINST ANTS EVER DESIGNED! BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T HE, ANT-MAN... THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!

THE CREATURE'S LONG, VISCIOUS TONGUE LICKS OUT... THEN FLICKERS BACK, INTO THE SMALL MOUTH OPENING, TAUNTINGLY...



NEITHER YOU NOR YOUR ANTS CAN ESCAPE! I PULL THIS SWITCH AND EVERY CRACK IN THE ROOM HAS A LIVE WIRE ACROSS IT THAT WILL ELECTROCUTE ANY INSECT OR INSECT-SIZED CREATURE THAT ATTEMPTS TO PASS OVER IT! THIS IS YOUR FINISH, ANT-MAN!

THE HUGE ANT-EATER MOVES TOWARDS ANT-MAN, ITS TONGUE DARTING IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH AN UNUSUAL MORSAL...



ANT-MAN! WHAT CAN WE DO?

STAY BACK! I'LL HANDLE THIS!

HIS LASSO, MADE OF TINY STRANDS OF STEEL-STRONG SYNTHETIC FIBER, SNAPS OUT AND LOOPS AROUND THE ELONGATED SNOUT OF THE ANT-DESTROYING CREATURE... THEN, ANT-MAN GIVES A POWERFUL YANK...



WASP, PULL THAT SWITCH TO TURN OFF THE CURRENT AROUND THE CRACKS! HURRY!

WILL DO, BOSS MAN!



IT'S NO USE LOCKING THE DOORS OR PULLING THE BLANKETS UP OVER YOUR HEAD. LET'S FACE IT- HE'S IN AGAIN! THE NEW-MODEL ATOM BOMB, COMPOSED STRICTLY OF FAT ATOMS. AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE UNFOLDING OF THE MOST AMAZING AND ASTOUNDING STORY THAT YOU'RE READING AT THE MOMENT. EVERY WORD OF IT TRUE AS---

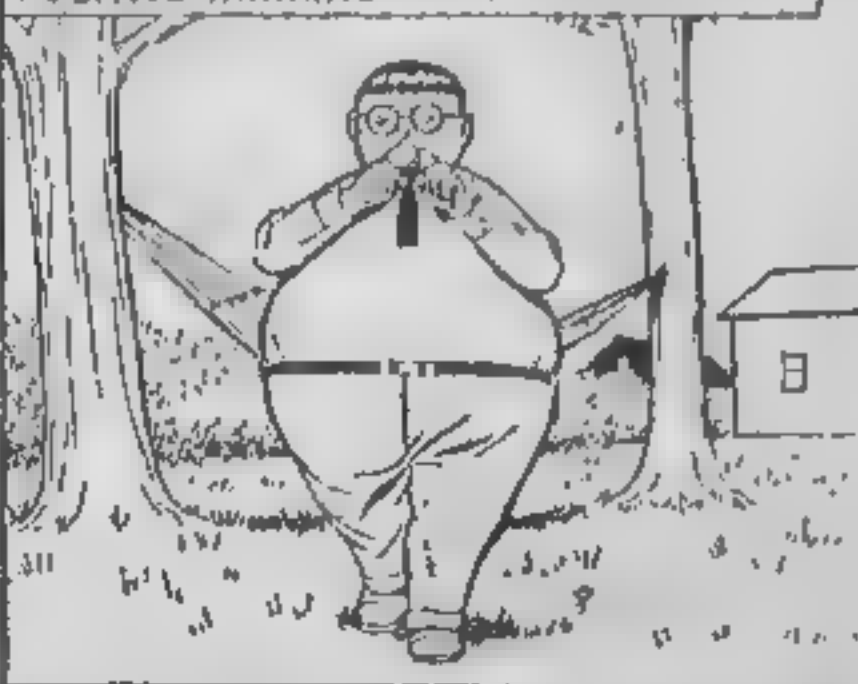
HERBIE GOES to the DEVIL!



HERBIE? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. OTHER FATHERS HAVE SONS THAT RALLY AROUND AND HELP... BUT NOT OUR SON. LIKE I SAID IN THE LAST STORY HE'S A LITTLE FAT NOTHING!



BUT HERBIE WANTED TO HELP... IF ONLY HE COULD THINK OF SOMETHING. AND TO AID CONCENTRATION AND THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING... TRY A SECOND LOLLIPOP...



HE WAS STILL THINKING IN SCHOOL NEXT MORNING... BUT SO FAR, NOTHING HAD COME TO HIM...



NOW LET'S GO DOWNSTAIRS. MATTER OF FACT, LET'S GO ALL THE WAY DOWN TO A CERTAIN FLAMING REGION, WHERE SATAN'S BOOKS ARE BEING CHECKED...

TCH, TCH. YOUR BUSINESS IS GOING BADLY, SATAN... SEEMS AS IF YOU GET LESS AND LESS SOULS EVERY YEAR.

NONSENSE! YOU'RE JUST NOT SUCH A HOT BOOKKEEPER, THAT'S ALL.



REALLY? YOU'RE NOT AS YOUNG AS YOU USED TO BE... MAYBE YOU'RE LOSING YOUR GRIP.

I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S LOSING HIS GRIP! WHY, I'M AS GOOD AS I EVER WAS!



I'LL THROW THIS DART-- AND WHOEVER IT HITS, I GUARANTEE TO DELIVER HIS SOUL IN SHORT ORDER! WATCH!





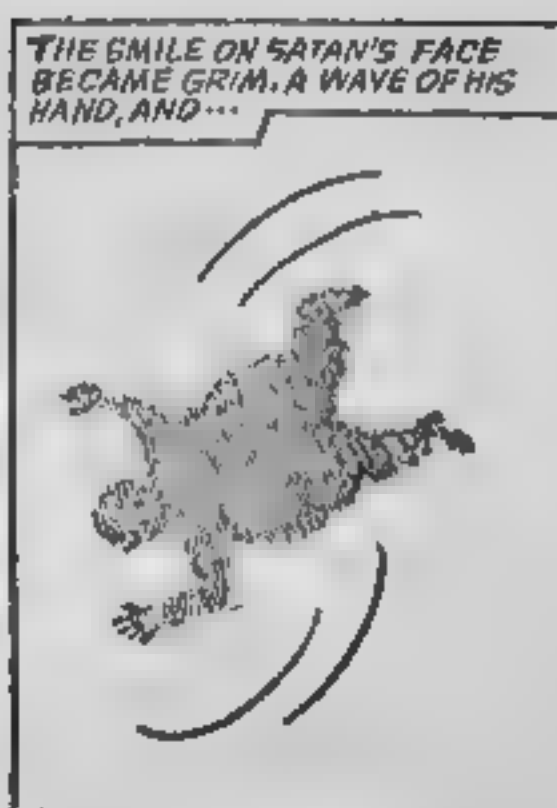


LOLLIPOPS!



OH COME NOW... YOU KNOW YOU WANT MORE THAN THAT. TELL YOU WHAT... I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A FREE SAMPLE OF WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU... NO OBLIGATION! A HANDSOME FELLOW LIKE YOU WOULD MAKE A GREAT ACTOR... HOW ABOUT IT?

OKAY... IF YOU WANT.



THE SMILE ON SATAN'S FACE BECAME GRIM, A WAVE OF HIS HAND, AND...



EGYPT... THERE'S MOVIE-MAKING IN PROGRESS...

RELAX, MISS BAYLOR... RELAX! THERE'S BEEN A REPLACEMENT... WE'VE BROUGHT IN THE GREATEST ACTOR IN HISTORY!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH RICHARD MERTON? I WON'T SHOOT ANOTHER SCENE WITHOUT HIM!



HERE HE IS... THE INCOMPARABLE HERBIE POPNECKER!

HMMMMM... MAYBE HE'LL DO, AFTER ALL. YES, I THINK HE WILL DO!

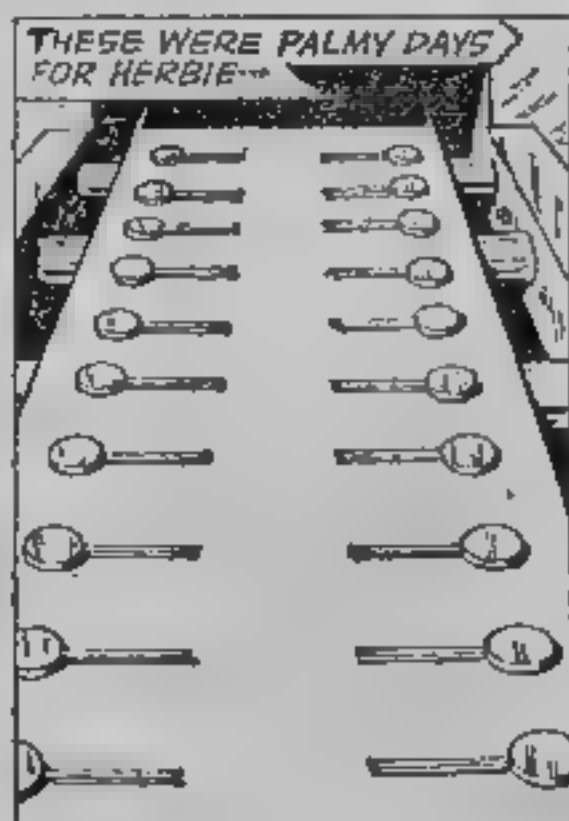
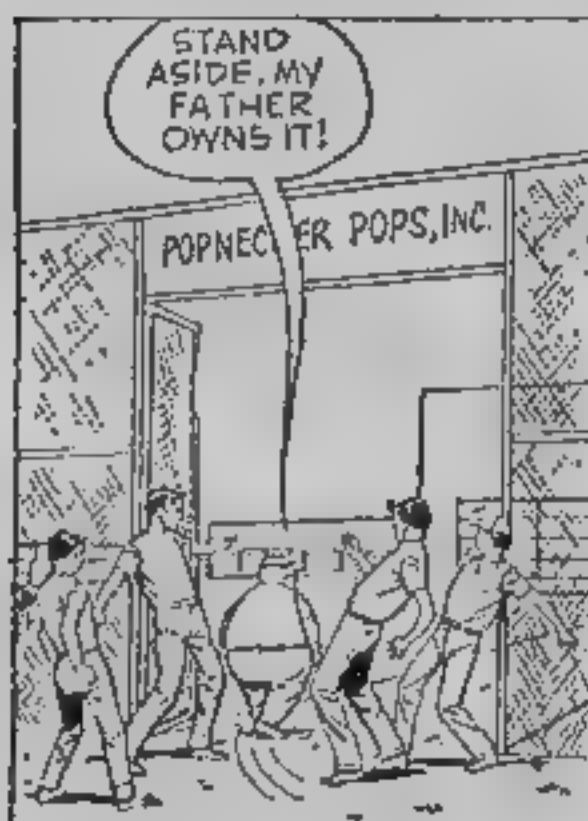


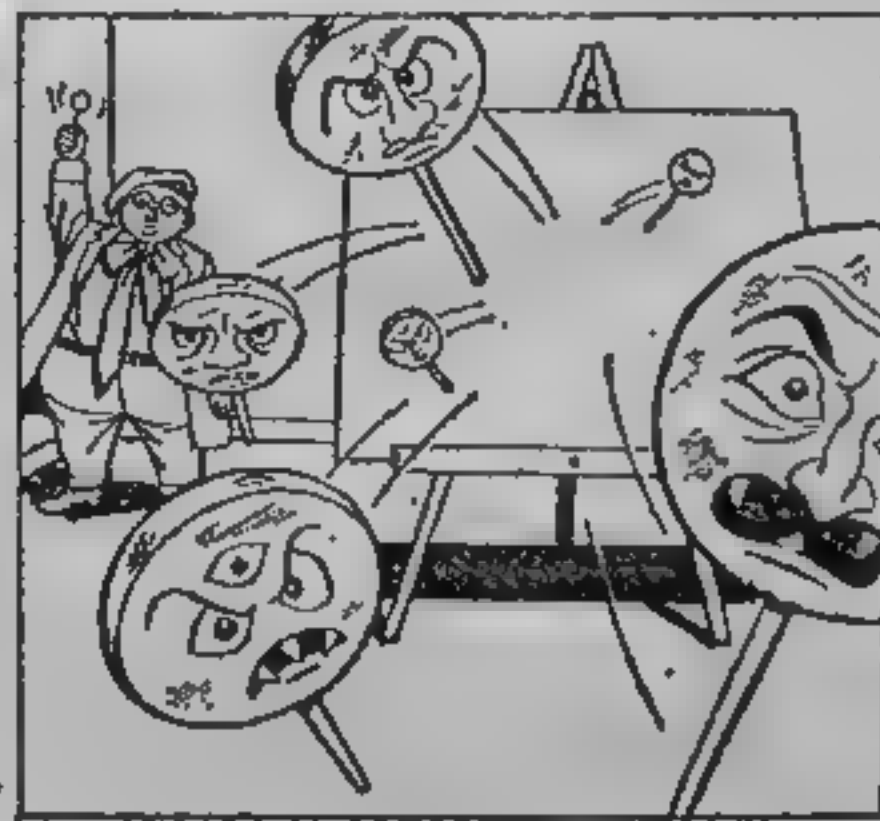
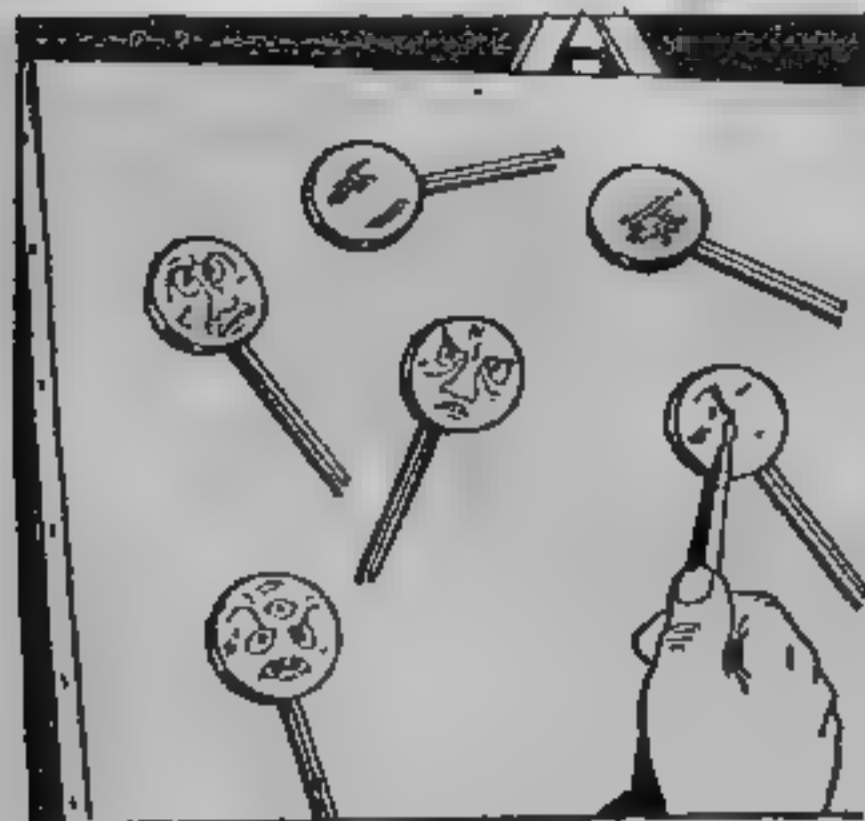
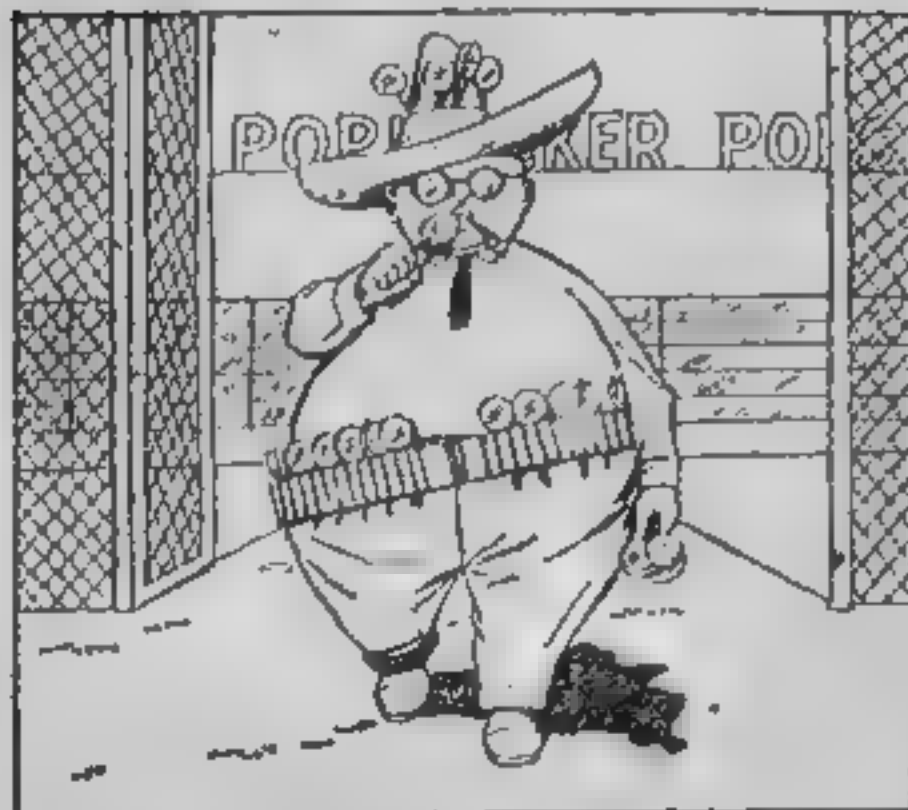
COME, LOVER...



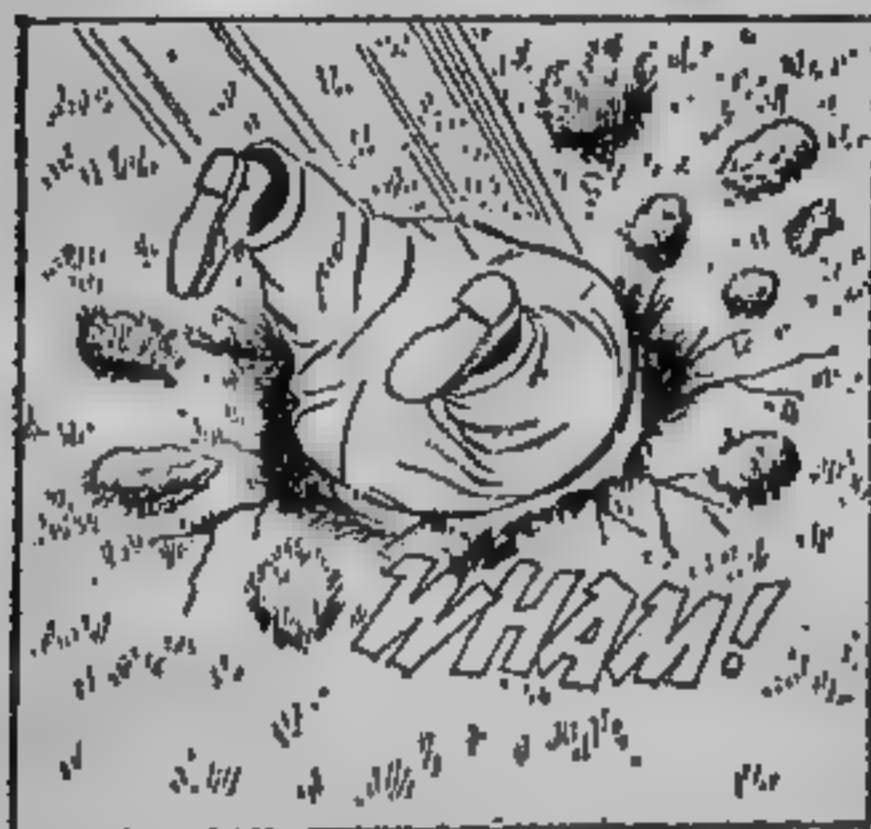
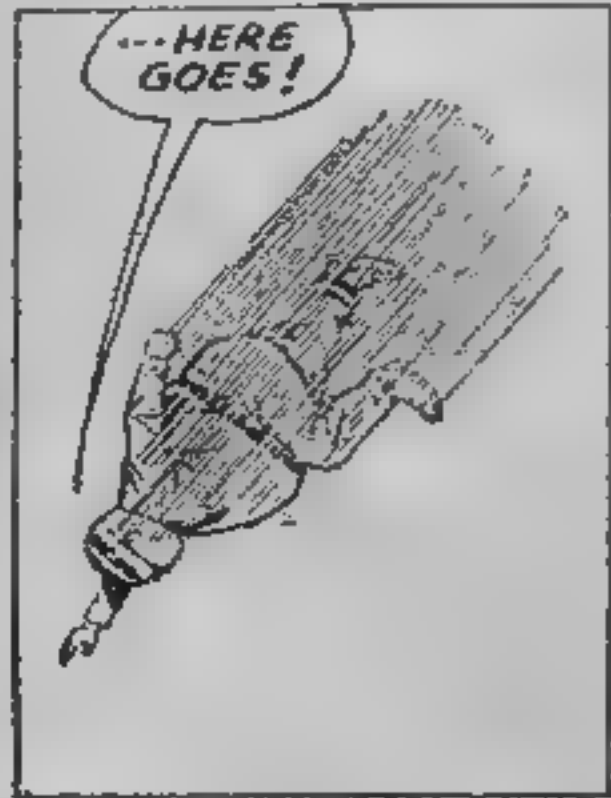
GIVE ME BACK MY LOLLIPOP.





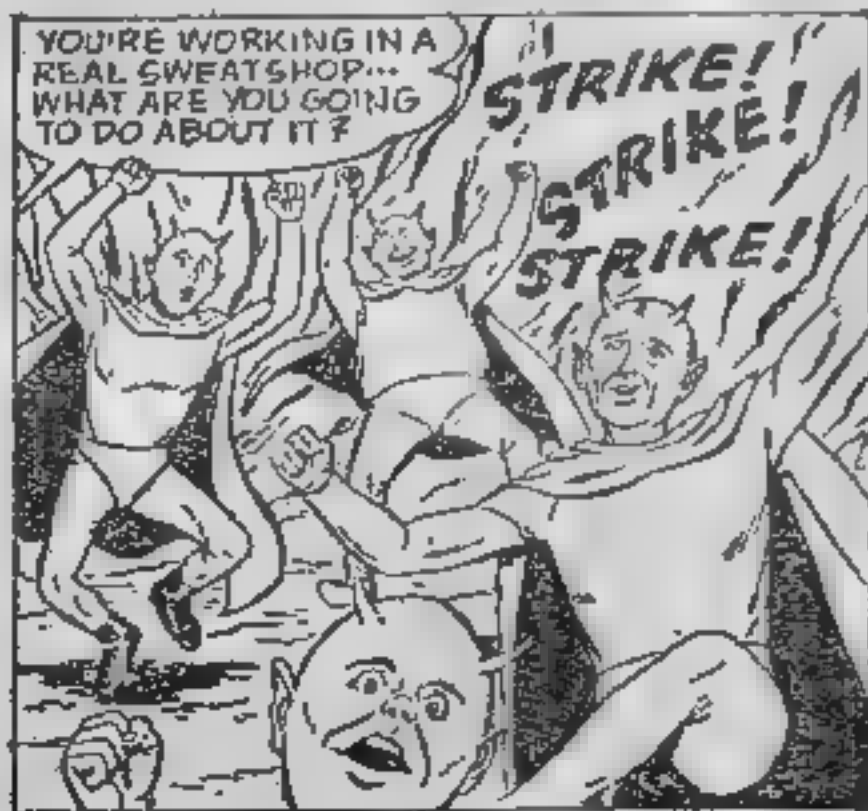


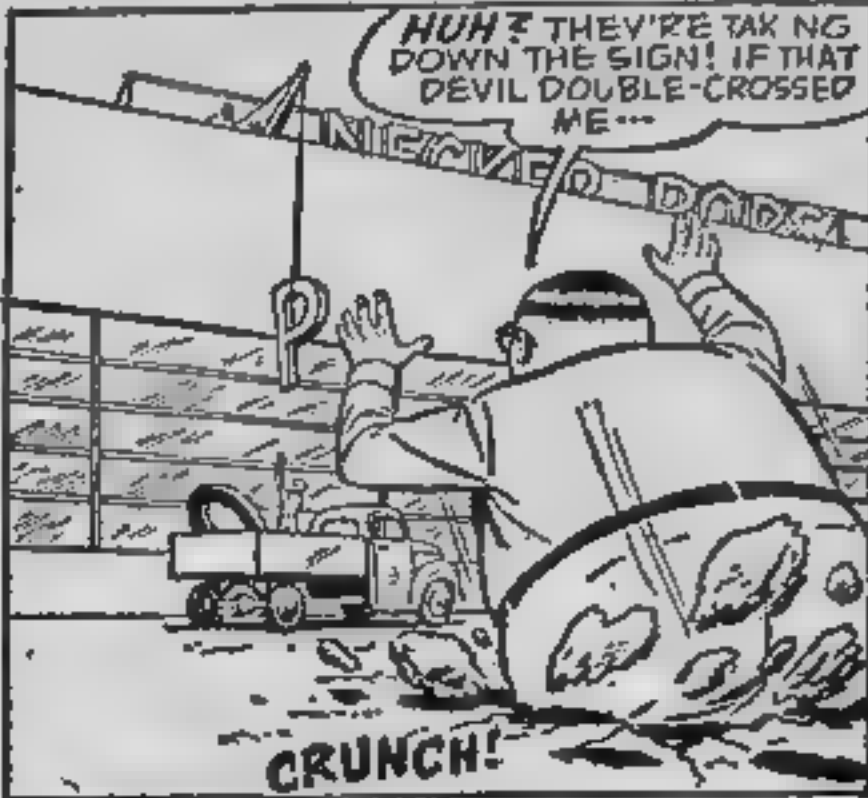










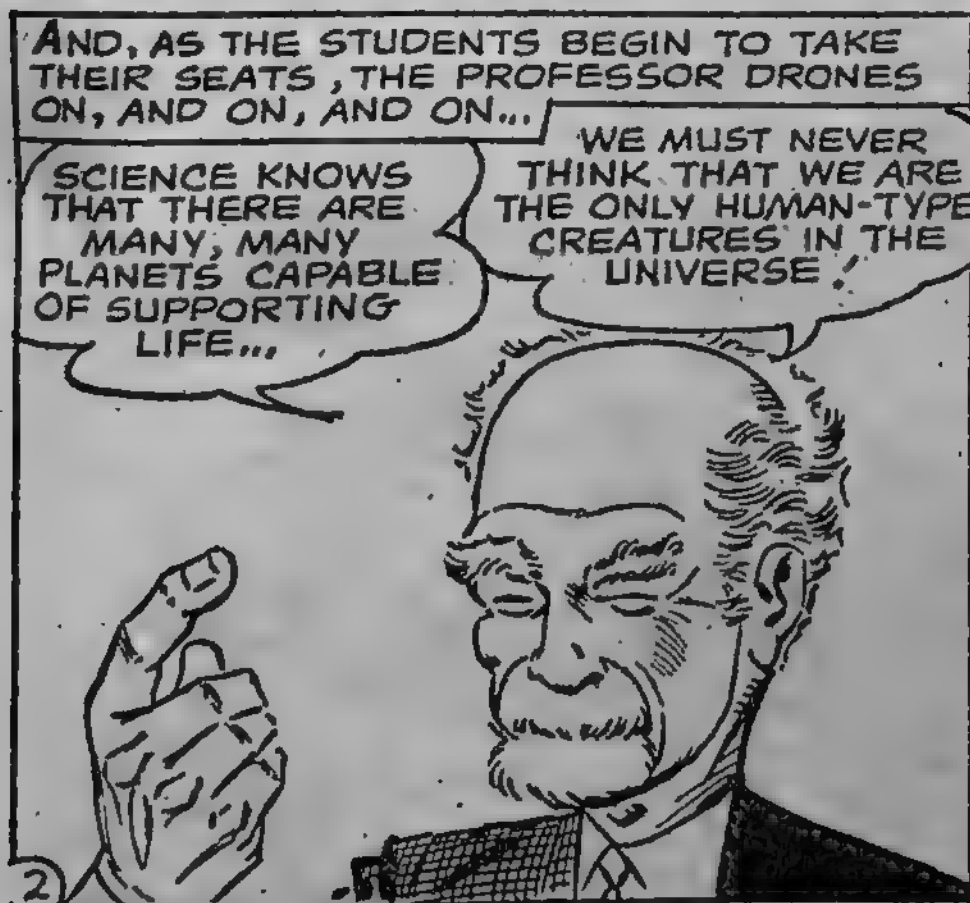
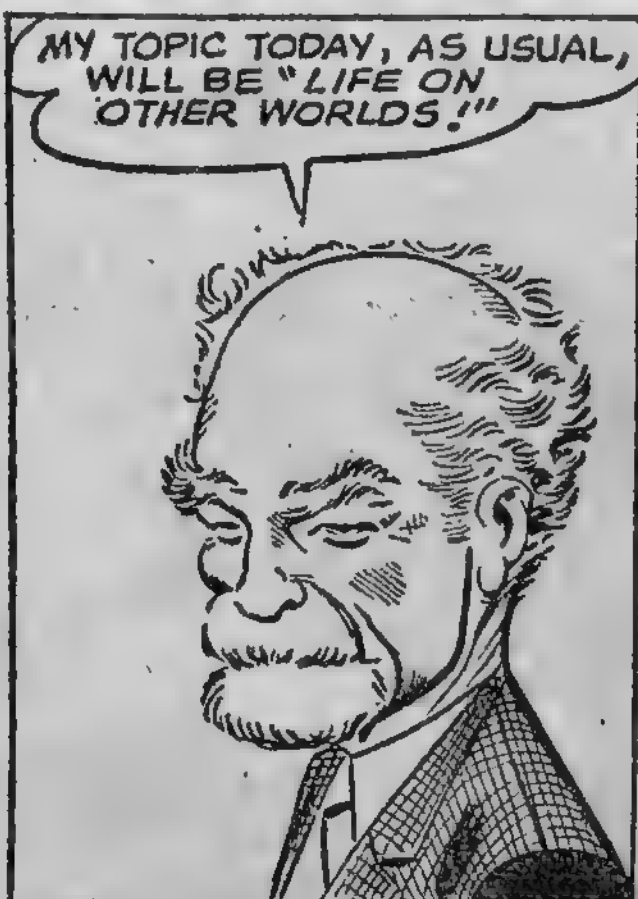
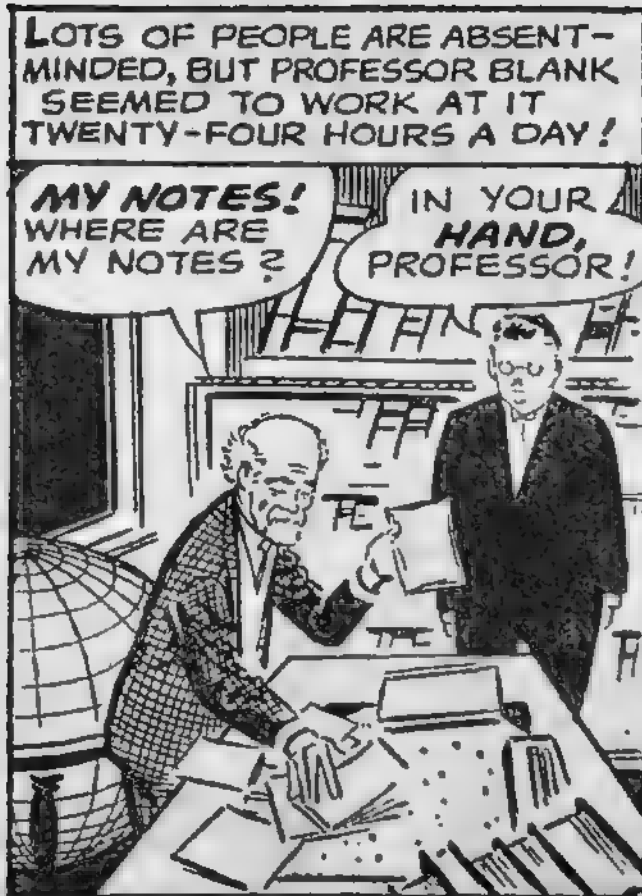


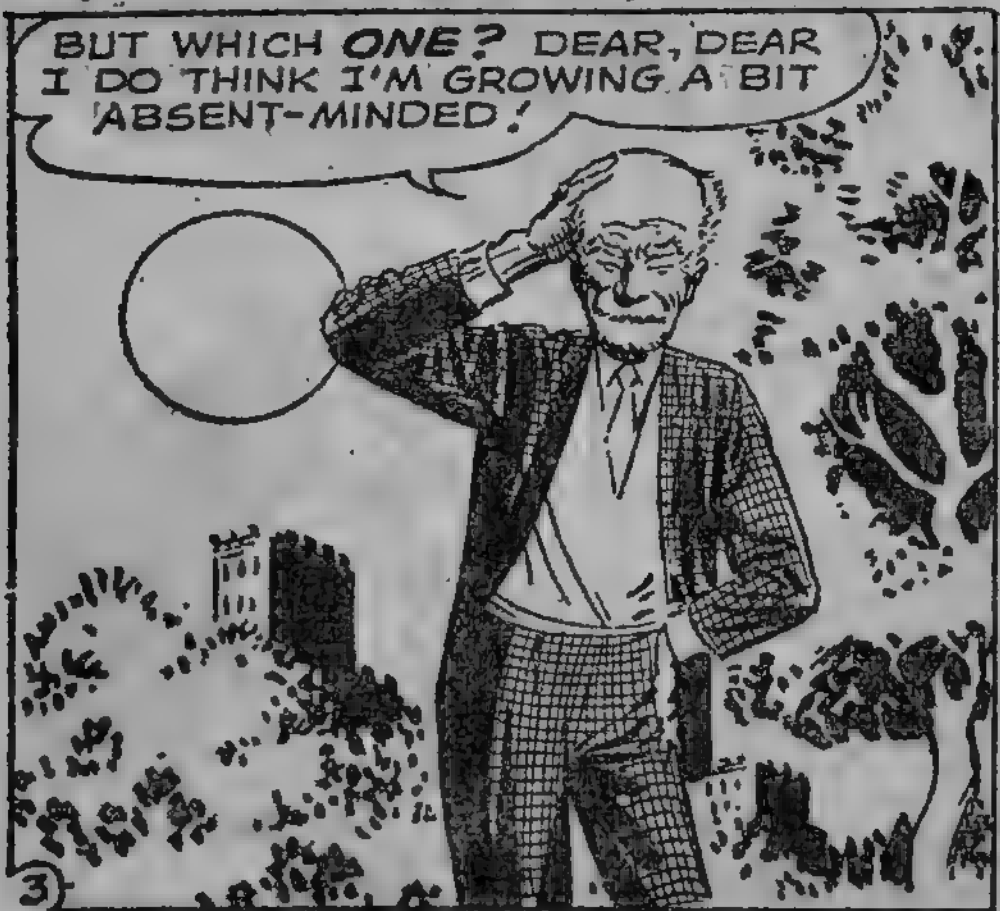
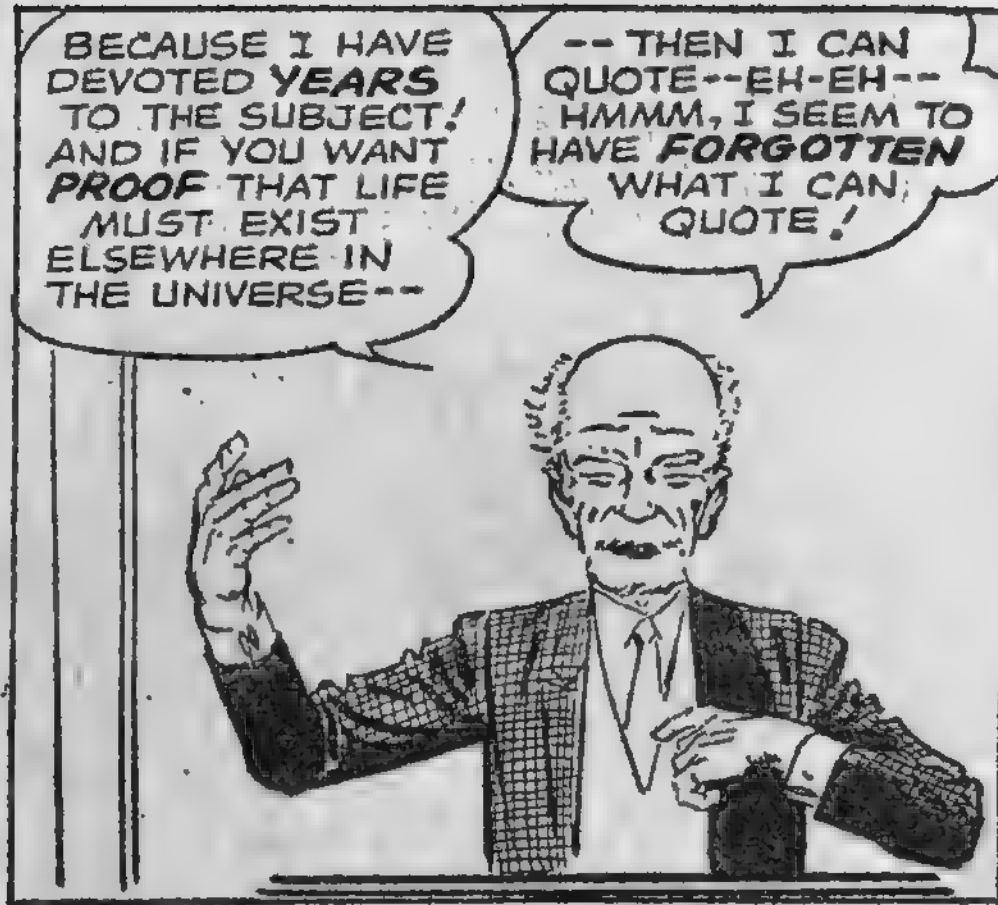
Step up friends, and meet...
**"The ABSENT-MINDED
PROFESSOR!"**

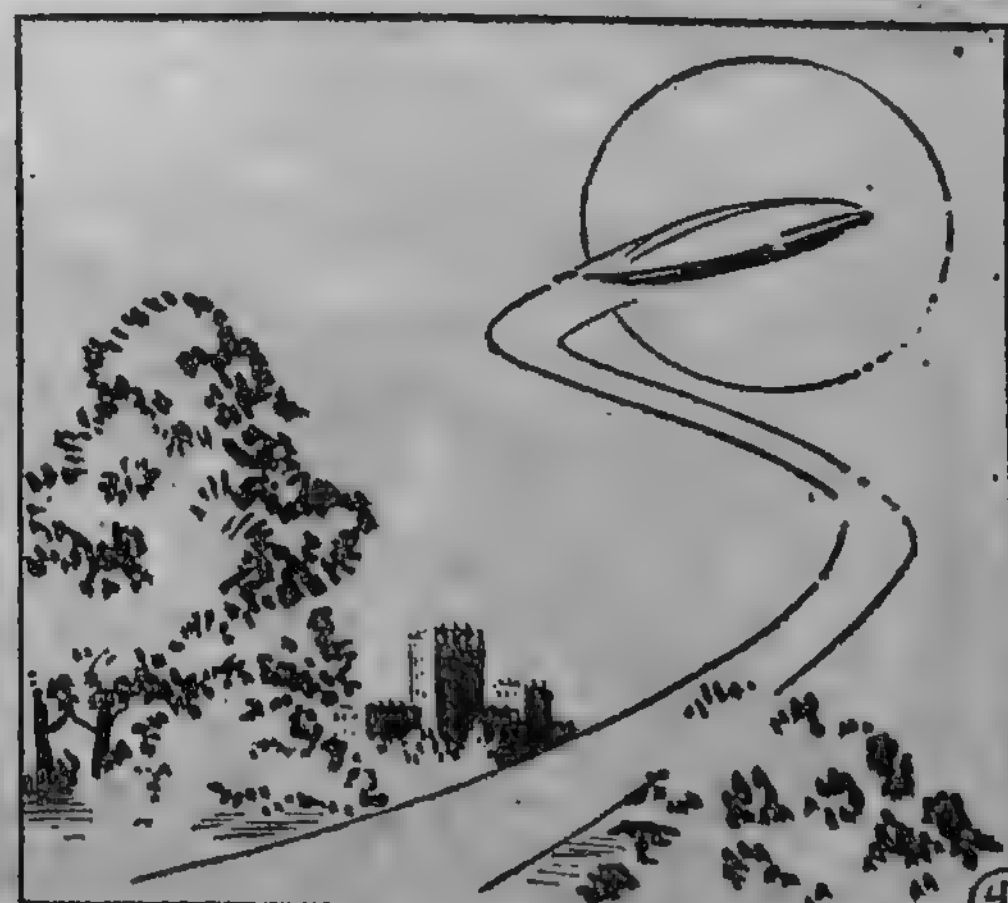
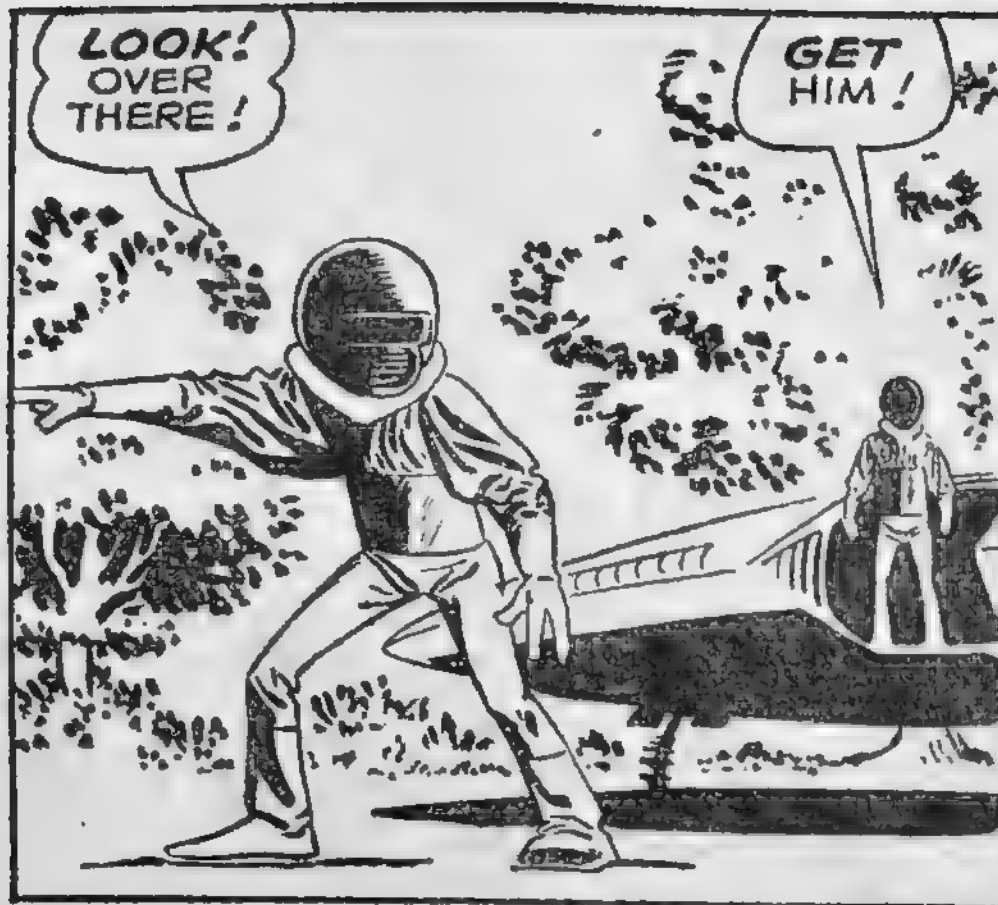
IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN
TO MATCH WITS WITH
LEE AND DITKO!! SEE
IF YOU CAN GUESS THE
SURPRISE ENDING OF
THIS YARN BEFORE
YOU REACH THE
LAST PANEL!

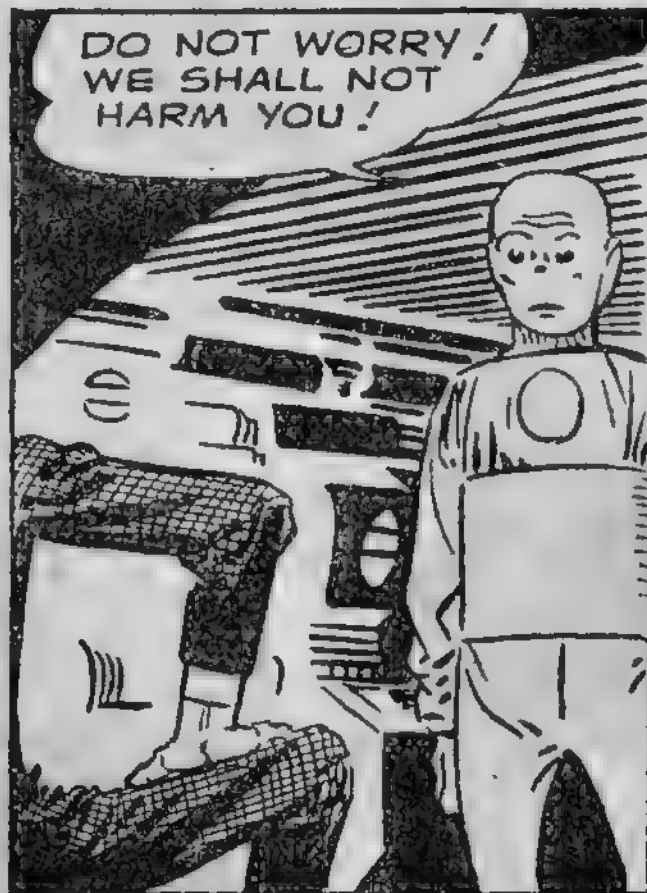
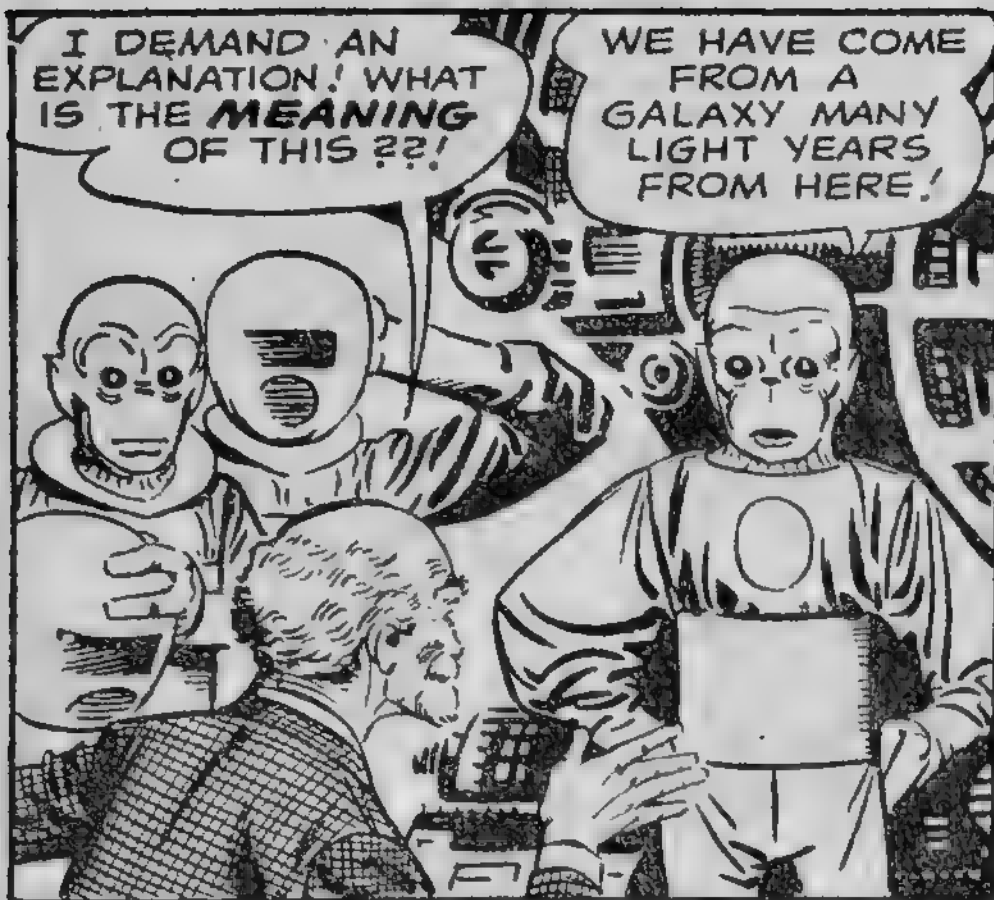
Stan Lee & S. DITKO











"TUNNEL TRAP"

There's an old saying about the grass being greener in the other fellow's pasture. Maybe we are fundamentally restless and want to be on the move. Put those two together and you can easily understand the desire to have adventure. We get bored with the usual and want the unusual. If you are willing to use your common sense you can at once spot a fallacy in this reasoning: After a while the unusual becomes the usual.

Ever look up into the air and see a fellow cleaning the window on the thirty-second floor of a skyscraper? You probably shudder a bit as you think of all the things that could happen to him. His strap might break, or he might get a dizzy spell. But what goes through his mind as he is up there and looks down and spots you? You might fall down an open sewer if you insist on looking up while crossing the street, or you might get hit by a car.

Yes, I have had my unusual experience. You don't have to go to Africa to get a bit of the unusual. You can get tired of facing dangers and want to settle on a little quiet farm. So, you just sit back and let me tell you my story.

The name is George Murry. When I received my diploma from high school I went to work for the local butcher store in town. From which you might gather that my father had been a butcher. In this you are correct. Then came the war. Uncle Sam called me and put me into a uniform, and then somebody discovered that I knew how to cut meat. Or did I put it down in my qualification?

So I never left the good old United States, but I certainly did help to feed a lot of hungry soldiers. When the war was over I looked for a job. A large packing house made me an offer. I could sell meats for them to local butcher stores in a certain area. The proposition looked good. I would get a salary plus commission. It meant also that I would have to live in a small city and use that place as my base of operation. My territory consisted of all the butcher stores in that county.

At the end of four months I met Mildred Loughran. She worked in the bookkeeping depart-

ment of the packing house. I remember just what I said to her.

"I have two passes for the movies tonight. Double feature at the Palace. Want to come?"

Mildred wasn't the kind of a girl to waste a lot of words in coming to a decision. She just answered in a word with three letters.

"Yes."

So that's how I started keeping company with Mildred. Her hair was chestnut brown. The eyes were medium sized and a deep black. Her complexion was good and she dressed rather conservatively. Mildred was about two years younger than myself. I took her out on Wednesday nights, Saturday nights, and on Sunday afternoons. I remember distinctly something Mildred said to me after I brought her home from a dance.

"What's the matter, George? Sometimes even when you are next to me you seem to have a far far away look. As though you wanted to be somewhere else."

I laughed when she had finished sort of scolding me. She knew I loved her and that sooner or later we would both be married. But you have to give Mildred credit. She could sense the inner me—the ME that wouldn't grow up. The ME that wanted a bit of adventure before settling down.

"Shall we go exploring in Tibet?" she sort of challenged me. "Is there some unknown you must discover before you will be able to face the commonplace of life?"

There was no answer. I talked about going on a picnic that Sunday. We would leave early and go through Meadow County. Through the back roads and find some little brook with green trees. She prepared lunch and we left at seven that Sunday. The sun was in the sky and everything seemed bright. She half teased me.

"I hope you meet a dragon on the road. You can challenge him to a duel. At least I shall be with you to share your unusual experience." No truer words were ever uttered than that last sentence of hers!

We rode for about three hours and found the little brook. We had lunch there, and then the sky started to darken.

"We better start before it rains," I suggested. "I don't like driving in one of these country down-pours."

We were still on a back road, and headed for the main highway. I crossed an old wooden bridge. On the left of that bridge was a railroad track which entered a tunnel. Just one track. The kind that has trains go both ways. That means a timed schedule and probably only a few trains a day.

Then something happened to the steering wheel of my car, ■ something might have ■ the bottom of my car. Just what happened is something about which I am a bit hazy. The car went right through the thin wooden railing of the bridge.

"We're crashing," shouted Mildred.

We landed right side up on the railroad track and went into that tunnel. The car bumped along the track and smashed into the wall. Part of the car roof bent inwards and wedged the both of us in the car as though we were prisoners. Somehow the car light inside went on and there was a bit of illumination.

"Are you hurt, Mildred?" were my first words.

"I don't know," she replied. "I don't feel any pain in my arms or legs. But I can't move them."

"We have to get out of here in a hurry," I sort of reminded myself. "This is a railroad tunnel. A train may come from either end of the tunnel. Guess it doesn't make much difference. Once it hits us, we're finished."

My chin was resting almost on top of the wheel. I pressed my chin down and it touched the horn band. The horn made its usual loud noise.

"That ought to attract attention and get us help," I said trying to reassure Mildred. For I couldn't move myself an inch in the car.

"No traffic cop around to hear you," Mildred replied in a weak effort to keep up my spirits. Then she added, "If the dragon were around now, maybe he would push the car out of the tunnel."

I haven't any idea of how long I tried blowing my horn. It grew weaker and weaker. The car light started to get dimmer. My battery was dying on me.

"Maybe they only have one train today," I said in an attempt to cheer Mildred.

"George, you know I love you," she said in a weak voice.

"And I love you, darling," I replied.

Then I heard the noise when we both were quiet. At first it was very faint as though it were far far away.

"Hear that bell or is it my imagination?" I asked.

"It's a locomotive bell," she speculated. "And it can't be very far away."

Then it grew louder. It wasn't our imaginations. The bell was real. I could feel those beads of perspiration forming on my forehead. They began to trickle down my face.

"Mildred," I pleaded, "See if you can budge a little. We just can't sit here and be smashed to pieces."

"Can't move at all," were her only words.

The horn of the car was now completely dead and that little light had ceased to shine. The locomotive would smash both of us. Yet there must be something I could do.

"Stop, stop," I shouted at the top of my voice as the ringing bell seemed upon us. I could feel the vibrations inside the tunnel. There was a light that began to shine. I struggled again to see if I could free myself. The entire tunnel became flooded with powerful light. The bell stopped ringing.

"Take it easy, you two in there," said a strange voice. "Just don't move. We'll get you out."

They cut the car open from the back and we were freed. Then they took us outside. We both were dazed. I shook my head as though to clear away the cobwebs. I saw the emergency wagon from the fire department.

"Good thing for you a kid saw your car go over and into the tunnel," said the Fire Chief. "He ran home and told his father. At first the father doubted what his son said, but he drove back here and saw where the car had gone over the bridge. He called us and here we are."

"You came in time," I thanked him. "We might have been smashed to pieces by a train."

"Impossible," he corrected me. "That's an abandoned railroad section. No trains been on that track for five years, but something else. You might have just remained there for years. Nobody ever uses that old bridge. Guess the warning sign must have fallen down."

Mildred my wife is certain about one thing. I no longer have that far away look in my eyes. I had my unusual experience.

— THE END —

FOLLOW A STUDIOUS COLLEGE PROFESSOR FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE JUNGLES OF DARKEST AFRICA...AND WATCH HIM LEARN A THRILLING LESSON THAT...

YOU *can't* TEACH FAIRY TALES!

STORY: ZEV ZIMMER
ART: GERALD McCANN



HOMER ADDISON WAS A YOUNG PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT CORLISS COLLEGE...

OUR DISCUSSION HAS ALREADY COVERED THE RACES OF MAN, WITH THE CULTURAL ADVANCES OF EACH...

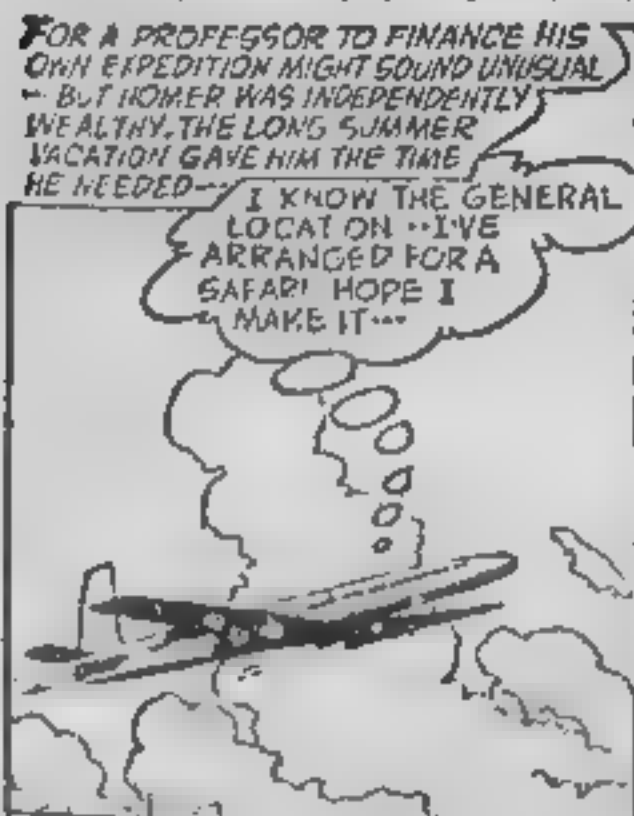
THIS IS DULL...
LET'S GET HIM STARTED
ON HIS FAVORITE
SUBJECT.

ER...PROFESSOR
ADDISON! WOULD YOU
MIND TELLING US SOME-
THING ABOUT THE SALORI
TRIBE OF AFRICA?



THE SALORIS? ALL THAT WE KNOW ABOUT THEM HAS COME DOWN TO US OVER THE YEARS IN FOLK LORE AND LEGENDS--BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT NO SPECIMEN OF THESE PEOPLE HAS EVER ACTUALLY BEEN SEEN BY EXPLORERS OR BROUGHT BACK TO CIVILIZATION. BUT THE STORIES ABOUT THEM PERSIST--AND I, FOR ONE, BELIEVE THEM!







NOW THAT THEY HAD SIGHTED THE ENEMY, THE BEARERS PANICKED AND FLED WILDLY. HOMER WAS LEFT ALONE--SOON HOPELESSLY LOST--







I --- LOVE YOU ---



WE SHOULDN'T DO THIS
--- IT --- IT CAN'T BE!
SALORIS MATE ONLY
WITH SALORIS ---

NONSENSE -- A PRETTY
GIRL LIKE YOU CAN MARRY
ANY MAN SHE CARES FOR!
AND TO THINK I THOUGHT
YOU SALORIS WERE
DIFFERENT -- THAT
YOU HAD STRANGE
POWERS ---



LORANA --- WHAT --- SHE'S
D-DISAPPEARING!

PROFESSOR HOMER ADDISON
WENT A LITTLE OUT OF HIS HEAD
THEN --- RUSHING THROUGH THE
JUNGLE, SEEKING HER WILDLY ---



LORANA! LORANA!
WHERE HAVE YOU
GONE TO ---?



OH ---

CRASH!



THUD!

HOMER RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS MOMENTARILY ---
TO FIND HIMSELF A CAPTIVE IN THE NATIVE VILLAGE ---



I KNOW --- WHAT'S
COMING --- NO HOPE
--- FOR ME ---

BOOMA
BOOMA
BOOM



NO, IT WASN'T HIS IMAGINATION. FOR LORANA WASN'T ALONE. ALL AROUND, THE SHADOWY FIGURES OF THE SALORIS WERE MATERIALIZING OUT OF THE THIN AIR ---



HE HAD CONFUSED MEMORIES OF BEING BORNE THROUGH THE AIR---

HURRY---



THEY BORE HIM TO A SPOT WHERE THEY KNEW FRIENDLY NATIVES WOULD FIND HIM AND BRING HIM BACK TO CIVILIZATION---

HERE---



GOODBYE--
MY DARLING--



NOW PROFESSOR HOMER ADDISON IS BACK IN AMERICA--BACK AT HIS TEACHING--

POUF!



IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASCRIBE QUALITIES TO ANY RACE. FOR RACES ARE DIVIDED INTO NATIONS--INTO TRIBES--



LET'S STIR UP A STORM. WE'LL GET HIM STARTED ON HIS FAVORITE SUBJECT--



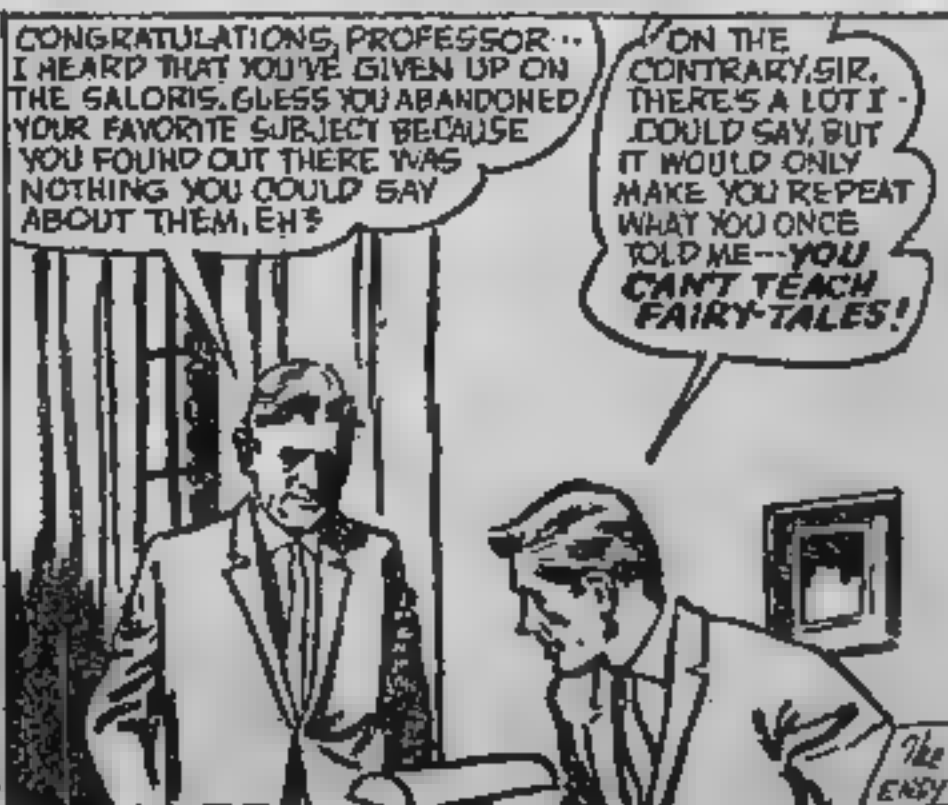
PROFESSOR ADDISON--
HOW ABOUT A TRIBE
LIKE THE SALORIS
OF AFRICA?

IF YOU DON'T
MIND, WE WON'T
DISCUSS THE
SALORIS HERE
AGAIN--
EVER!



CONGRATULATIONS, PROFESSOR--
I HEARD THAT YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON
THE SALORIS. GUESS YOU ABANDONED
YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT BECAUSE
YOU FOUND OUT THERE WAS
NOTHING YOU COULD SAY
ABOUT THEM, EH?

ON THE
CONTRARY, SIR,
THERE'S A LOT I
COULD SAY, BUT
IT WOULD ONLY
MAKE YOU REPEAT
WHAT YOU ONCE
TOLD ME--**YOU
CAN'T TEACH
FAIRY-TALES!**



The
END

WHATEVER IT WAS, WHEREVER IT HAD COME FROM, IT WASN'T A THING OF OUR WORLD, AND NOW THEY'LL NEVER BE EXPLAINED—THE MIGHTY POWERS OF THE...

WEIRD WALKING STICK!

STORY: ACE AQUILA



IT ALL BEGAN ON JULY 12TH, 1962—

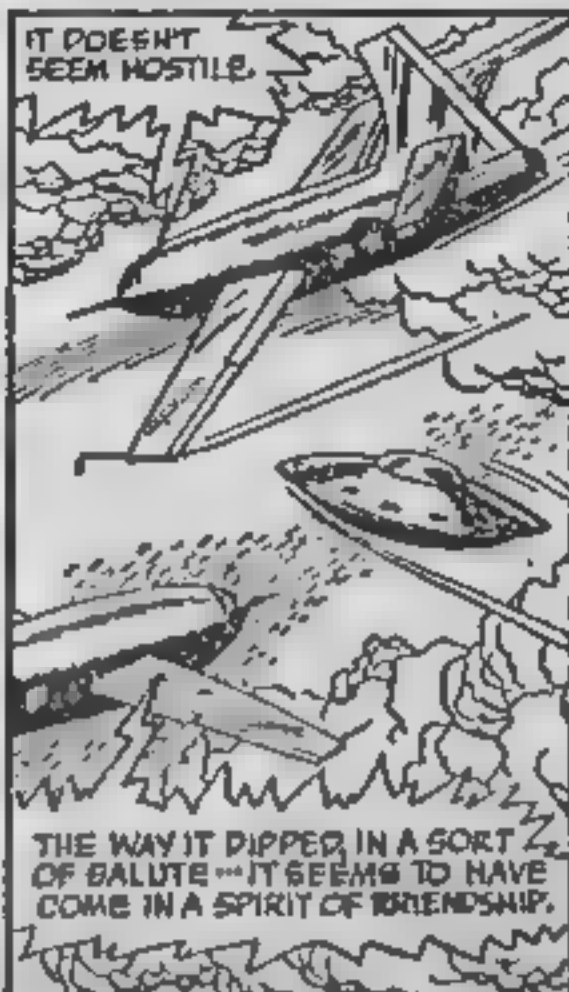


THE AIR FORCE WAS ALERTED AND PLANES SENT IMMEDIATELY TO INVESTIGATE...

WELL, I'LL BE -- IT'S TRUE!



IT DOESN'T SEEM HOSTILE.



BUT ONE TRIGGER-HAPPY PILOT
COULDN'T RESTRAIN HIMSELF.
RECKLESSLY HE OPENED FIRE



FIRST TO REACH THE WRECKAGE
WAS SIM HILLIGAN--A DIM-
WITTED FARMHAND WHO'D BEEN
WORKING NEARBY...

OH, GOLLY-
GEE...



BUT SOMETHING CAUGHT
HIS EYE AND INTRIGUED
HIS CHILDLIKE MIND--HE
PAUSED JUST LONG ENOUGH
TO GRAB IT--/IT--IT'S
SOME KINDA WALKIN'
STICK--WITH A LIGHT
IN IT. THERE'S NOBODY
TO CARE IF I TAKE
IT--



THAT NIGHT WAS THE OPENING OF THE COUNTY FAIR...



LOOKIT HIM LEADIN'
THE PARADE--BUT I
GOT A BETTER STICK
--MINE'S GOT A
LIGHT. I'LL SHOW
THESE FOLKS
SOMETHIN'!



GET OUTA
HERE, YA
DUMB...

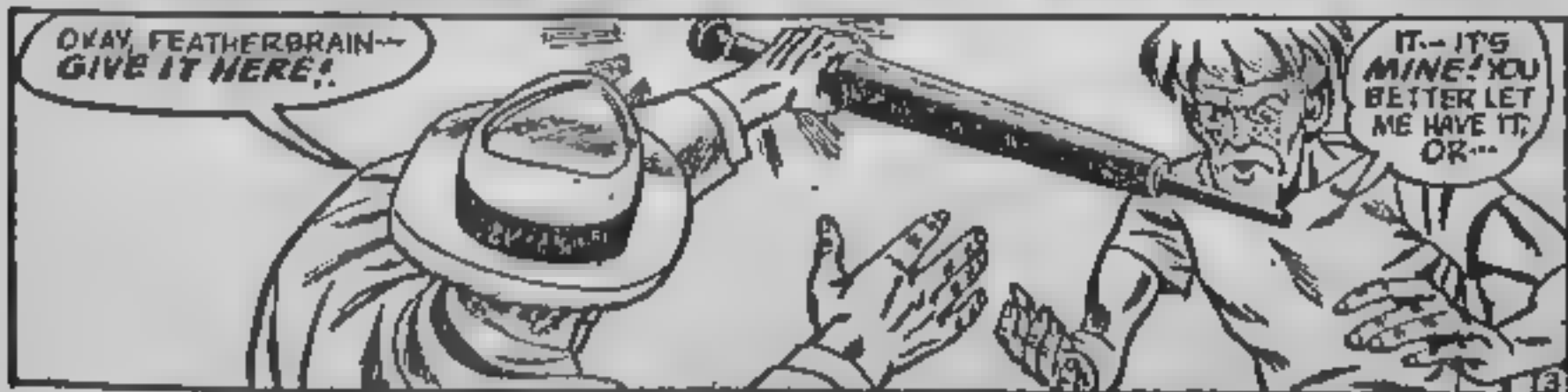
HA-HA! LOOKIT
ME, EVERYBODY!



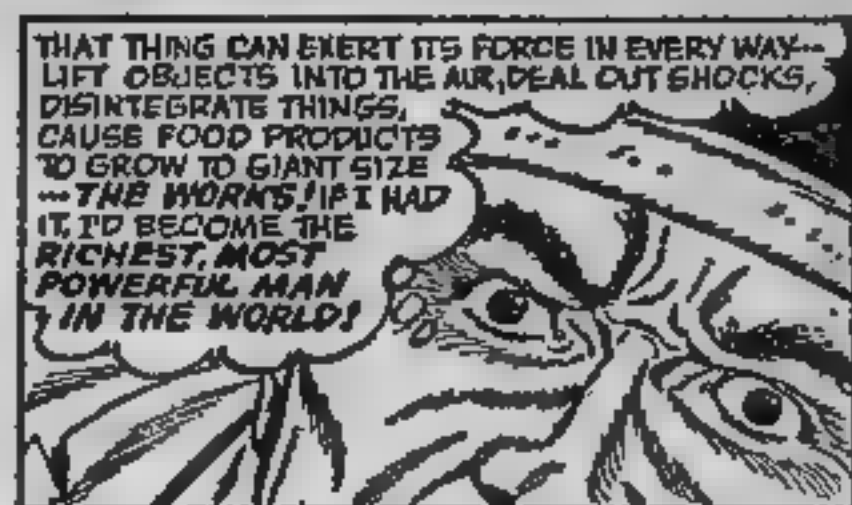
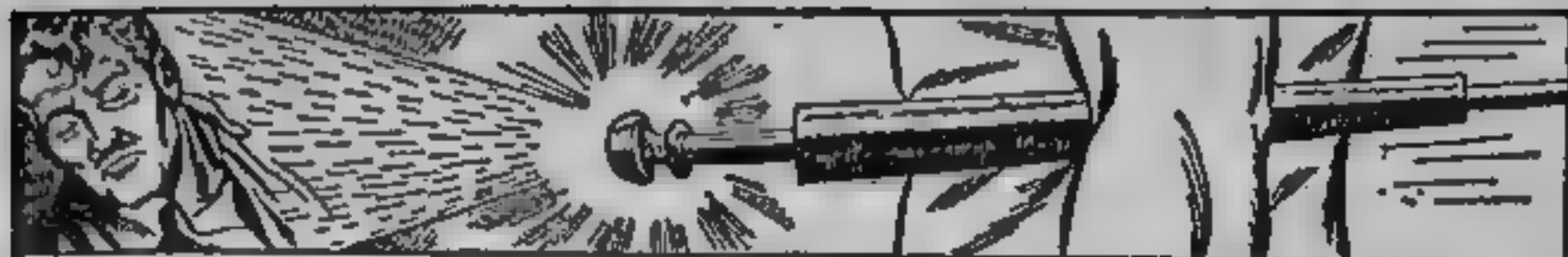
POOR SIM WAS ALMOST IN TEARS WHEN HE FELT A STRANGE SENSATION. EVEN AS HE HELD IT, HIS WALKING STICK SEEMED TO BE RISING...

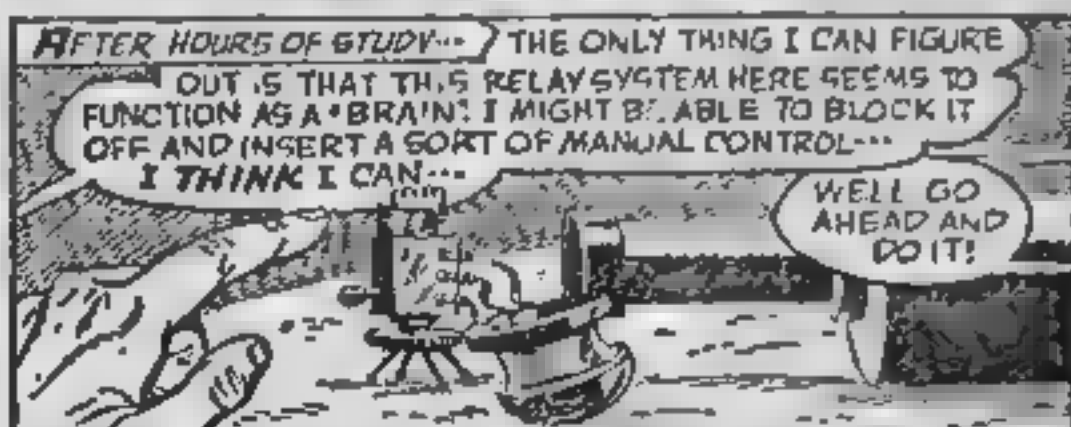


ARKY MADDEN, OWNER OF THE CARNIVAL, WAS PASSING JUST IN TIME TO SEE...









MEANTIME ARKY MADDEN WAS UP IN THE AIR FOR FAIR CLINGING TO THE WEIRD WALKING STICK--WHICH WAS RUNNING WILD! IT WAS FIRING INVISIBLE BULLETS A-D-W--AND WHATEVER THEY HIT TURNED TO POWDER!



NOW MADDEN WAS FALLING--AND THE SHOCK OF LANDING PRODUCED A NEW, EXPLOSIVE EFFECT. THIS TIME, THE STICK WAS POINTED AT THE ELEPHANT ENCLOSURE--



EEE-EEEEEE
EEEE-EEEEEE

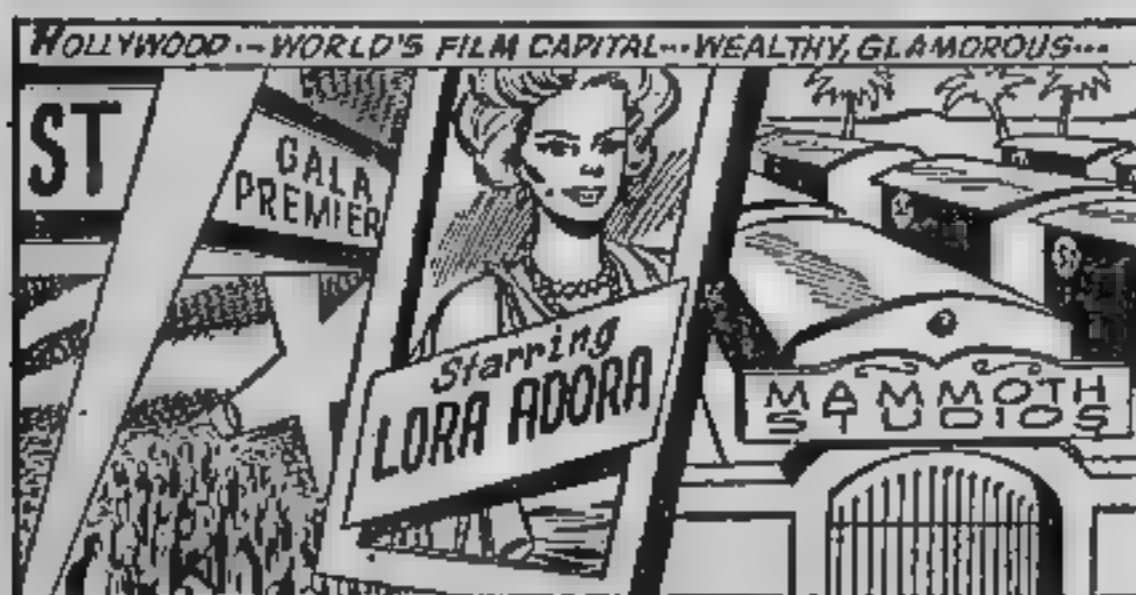
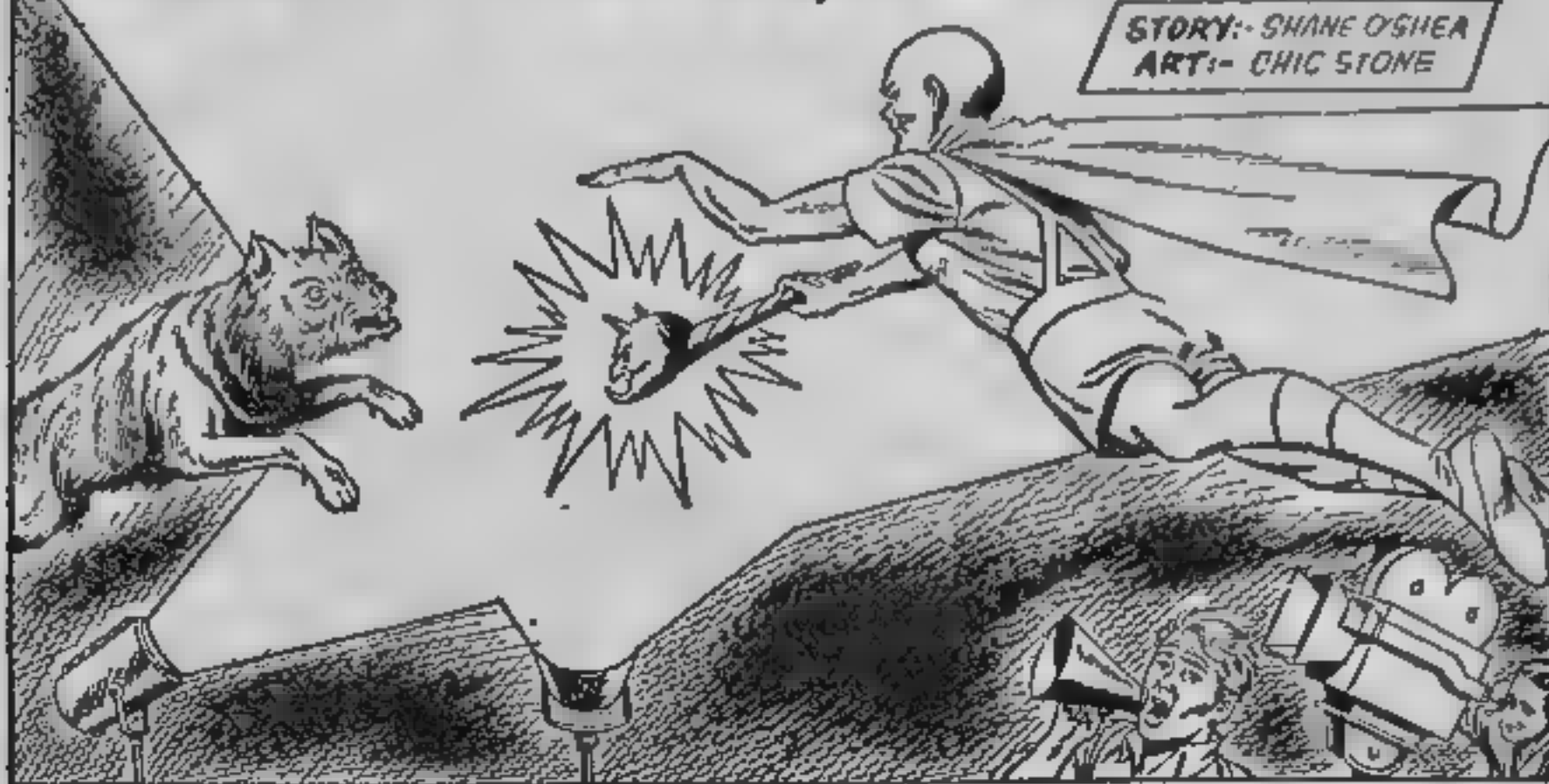


THIS WAS ITS END--THE STRANGE OBJECT THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GREAT GIFT TO THE WORLD--AND NOW DESTROYED BY MAN'S GREED, LOST FOREVER... (THE END)

THE STORY HAD COME DOWN ACROSS THE CENTURIES THRILLING AND FERRIE. AND THE MOVIE-MAKERS DIDN'T KNOW THAT THEY WERE MIDDLING WITH FORCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL WHEN THEY SAID---

"WHAT a PICTURE *it would* MAKE!"

STORY:- SHANE O'SHEA
ART:- CHIC STONE





RELAX, WILL YOU? WHEN WE DON'T HAVE THE DOUGH, WE GOTTA PLAY IT SMART! SOMETIMES THERE'S A GREAT PICTURE JUST IN A SIMPLE NEWSPAPER STORY... LIKE THIS!



SO WHO'S THIS BRANDT CHARACTER, TIP—AND WHAT HAPPENED WITH 500 YEARS AGO?

I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT, EITHER... UNTIL I READ THIS BOOK ON WILHELM BRANDT. WHAT A PICTURE IT WOULD MAKE, MANNY! COME INTO YOUR OFFICE AND I'LL GIVE YOU A QUICK RUNDOWN ON IT.



OKAY, GIVE IT TO ME FAST—DON'T MAKE A PRODUCTION OF IT! I GOT AN APPOINTMENT AT THE BANK TO RENEW OUR LOAN.

WELL, IT ALL TOOK PLACE FIVE CENTURIES BACK, IN THE TOWN OF REINSAGEN, DEEP IN THE SWISS MOUNTAINS.



"IT WASN'T JUST A JERK WATER JOINT, MANNY... IT WAS A REAL PROSPEROUS PLACE, COMPLETE WITH A BURGOMEISTER AND A TOWN COUNCIL..."

GREETINGS, HERR BURGOMEISTER.

SUCH A NICE DAY...

ACH, SUCH A FINE PLACE. EVERYONE HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS... OUR TREASURY LOADED WITH GOLD...



"BUT NOW TROUBLE STRIKES, SEE? IT'S THE WINTER OF 1463, A REAL HUMDINGER GAME SCARCE AND HUGE PACKS OF WOLVES MOVING IN ON THE TOWN. THEY NOT ONLY GRAB OFF THE FARM ANIMALS, BUT ANYTHING ELSE THEY CAN GET THEIR FANGS INTO..."

BACK, YOU MONSTER!



"THE WOLF'S REALLY AT THE DOOR... JOKE, MANNY! SO THE BURGOMEISTER CALLS A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL. YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW MUCH GOOD THAT DID... UNTIL..."

THOSE WOLVES ARE KILLING OUR ANIMALS... AND HUMAN BEINGS, TOO! YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT NONE OF YOU HAS ANY IDEA OF WHAT WE CAN DO BEFORE WE'RE WIPE OUT?

HE NEITHER... BUT I DON'T NOTICE YOU COMING UP WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS!

THERE IS A WAY OUT, GENTLEMEN... MY WAY!



"OUT OF NOWHERE, THIS PERFECT STRANGER BARGES IN—REAL NERVY-LIKE..."

HUH? WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS WILHELM BRANDT... I COME FROM AFAR. I AM A SORCERER BY PROFESSION... AND IT LIES WITHIN MY POWER TO END THIS PLAGUE OF WOLVES!



WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE TO THINK WE BELIEVE SUCH NONSENSE! IF YOU'RE A SORCERER, PROVE IT, YOU INSOLENT LACKEY!

GLADLY... BUT IT WILL BE TO YOUR SORROW!



"SO THIS CHARACTER WALKS OUT OF THE GATES OF THE TOWN... PRACTICALLY BEGGING TO BE WOLF-BAIT..."



"THOSE LOBOS WEREN'T BASHFUL! FROM EVERY SIDE THEY MADE A BEE-LINE FOR HIM..."



"NOW GET THE DRAMA OF THIS! THEY'RE ALMOST UPON HIM WHEN SUDDENLY, HE LIFTS THAT WAND OF HIS. THERE'S A MOANING ROAR...IT'S A TORNADO, AND HE'S THE LAD THAT TURNED IT ON!"



"THE WOLVES! WELL...WHAT DO YOU THINK?"





"TALK ABOUT SOCKO--
HOW'S THIS FOR BOX-
OFFICE? EVERY LAST
ONE OF THOSE
MARAUDERS BLOWN
OVER A CLIFF--TO
BE DASHED TO
THEIR DEATHS ON
THE ROCKS BELOW!



"SO FAR, SO GOOD-- BUT WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR THE **PAYOFF**--"

I DID WHAT I PROMISED
--NOW I EXPECT THE
SAME FROM YOU,
5,000 PIECES
OF GOLD!

WELL, NOW--
THAT'S A LARGE
AMOUNT OF
MONEY--

SPECIALLY WHEN THE JOB
WAS SO EASY FOR YOU.
LET'S BE FAIR--YOU
REALLY DON'T DESERVE
THAT MUCH.



YOU CAN SEE THAT 5,000 IS
RIDICULOUS, CAN'T YOU? TELL
YOU WHAT--WE'LL PAY
YOU **500**!

WHAT! YOU DARE TO TRY TO
CHEAT ME? ONLY LIARS BREAK
THEIR PROMISES--AND YOU'RE
NOT ONLY LIARS, BUT
THIEVES!



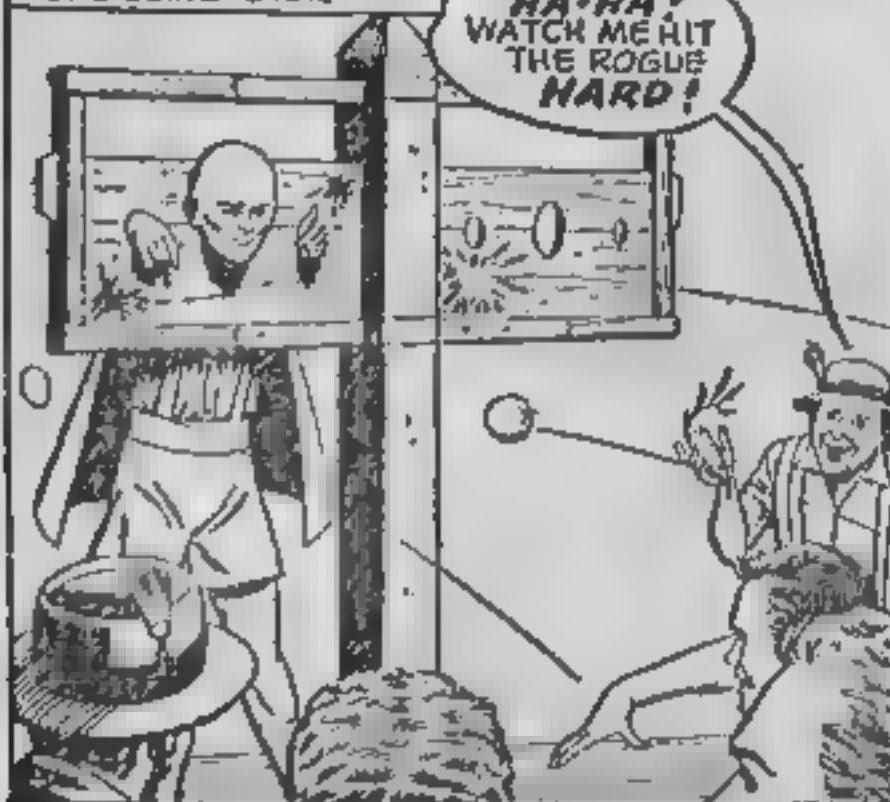
I'LL TEACH YOU TO
INSULT THE
BURGOMEISTER
AND COUNCIL!
SEIZE HIM,
GUARDS! RIP
HIS MAGIC
WAND AWAY
BEFORE HE
CAN USE
IT!

LET ME--
GO--



"A MAGICIAN WITHOUT HIS MAGIC WAND--HOW'D YOU
LIKE TO BE IN HIS SHOES, MANNY? THEY GAVE HIM A
REAL GOING-OVER--"

HA-HA!
WATCH ME HIT
THE ROGUE
HARD!



"THEN CAME TWENTY LASHES--FOLLOWED BY
IMPRISONMENT--" I HATE THEM--HATE THEM
AND THEIR WHOLE MISERABLE TOWN!
AND I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE! THE FOOLS
--SO THEY THINK THEY CAN KEEP MY
WAND FROM ME, DO THEY?



"THIS'LL BE A WHOPPER OF A SCENE IF WE EVER GET TO FILM IT..."

ON A REG! CAROTA EL ROGO!



LET'S CELEBRATE! THE WOLVES ARE GONE... AND THE JOB TURNED INTO A REAL BARGAIN FOR US!



I'M GLAD HE ACTED UP THE WAY HE DID... IT MEANT WE DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY HIM ANYTHING FOR WHAT HE DID!



"THEY GOT A SURPRISE THEN... ALL OF A SUDDEN..."

L-LOOK! BRANDT'S MAGIC WAND...



IT'S RISING INTO THE AIR... BY ITSELF!

GRAB IT!

IT ELLOPS ME... LIKE A THING ALIVE!



I'VE GOT IT BACK NOW... AND I'LL USE IT!



JUST PICTURE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. HE RAISES THE WAND... AND THE PRISON FALLS INTO RUINS ABOUT HIM...



FIRST... FREEDOM!

WHAM!



"TALK ABOUT REVENGE...IT WAS THE SAME TORNADO THAT HAD SETTLED THE WOLVES! AND THIS TIME, IT LEFT THE TOWN OF REINSAGEN IN WRECKAGE..."



"CAN YOU IMAGINE NOW THEY BEGGED FOR MERCY, MANNY? THE VERY MEN WHO HAD CHEATED HIM, ABUSED HIM--"

"FORGIVE US, WE BEG OF YOU--AND STOP THE WIND, OR NONE OF US WILL BE LEFT ALIVE!"

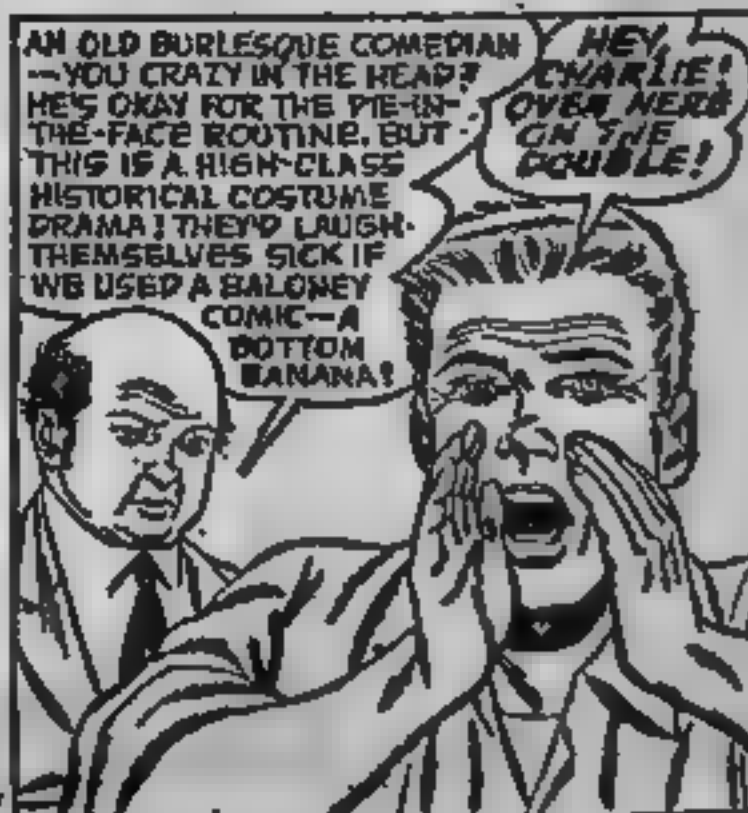
"MY BARGAIN WILL BE A HARD ONE, BUT YOU MUST PAY THE PENALTY FOR YOUR ACT ONE. LOAD ALL THE GOLD IN YOUR TREASURY ABOARD DONKEYS-- AT ONCE!"

ONCE WE WERE A PROSPEROUS TOWN-- BUT NOW OUR WEALTH DEPARTS, LEAVING US ONLY WRECKAGE!



"NOW WE REACH THE POINT WHERE NATURE TAKES A HAND. WILHELM BRANT DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT UP ABOVE, THE WORST PERIL OF THE MOUNTAINS THREATENED HIM. AVALANCHE--"







IT WAS GOING TO BE THE GREAT-
EST PICTURE THAT SAUNDERS-
DARYAN PICTURES, LTD., HAD
EVER SHOT. THEY AIMED FOR
REALITY...

WHEN SCENES
LIKE THIS ARE BLOWN UP
AND FLASHED ON THE SCREEN,
NOBODY'LL BE ABLE TO TELL
'EM FROM THE REAL
MCCOY!



EVERYTHING
WENT FINE --
UNTIL THE
SCENES WITH
CHARLIE BOBO
WERE FILMED
--AND THIS
SORT OF THING
WAS APT TO
HAPPEN--

HEY, LOOK! THIS GUY SURE MADE AN ASS OUT
OF HIMSELF, HUH?



LOOK, ALL THE
DOUGH WE
GOT TIED UP
IN THIS
PICTURE--
IF YOU HAM
IT UP, WE'RE
BUNK!

FORGET
YOU WERE
A BURLESQUE
COMEDIAN --
YOU GOTTA
PLAY THIS
ROLE DEAD
SERIOUS, SEE?

OKAY, I'LL TRY.
I'LL DO
MY
BEST--



BUT WHEN THE PICTURE WAS COM-
PLETED AND THEY RAN IT OFF--

GET STARTED, WILL YOU,
I--I'M SO NERVOUS I GOT
BUTTERFLIES IN MY
STOMACH!



SO IT WENT
THROUGHOUT
--LITTLE THINGS
THAT HAD
ESCAPED
UNNOTICED,
BUT NOW
SHOWED UP
IN AWFUL
CLARITY
ON THE
ILLUMINATED
SCREEN--



ONCE A COMIC, ALWAYS
A COMIC! HE HAMMED
IT UP FROM BEGINNING
TO END--COULDN'T
HELP HIMSELF--

HE DIDN'T HELP
US EITHER! WE
CAN'T SHOW THIS
PICTURE. WE PUT
OUR LAST CENT
INTO IT AND NOW
WE'RE CLEANED
OUT, FINISHED!



BUT THE TOWNSPEOPLE KNEW NOTHING OF THIS. TO THEM,
CHARLIE BOBO WAS A GREAT MAN, A FAVORITE. AND
THEY CELEBRATED THE COMPANY'S LEAVETAKING BY
THROWING A BIG PARTY FOR HIM--

WE WISH WE HAD SOME WAY OF SHOWING HOW MUCH
THE TOWN OF REINSAGEN HAS COME TO LOVE CHARLIE
BOBO! ALL WE CAN DO IS TO BESTOW UPON HIM A
VERY SPECIAL PRESENT--



—THE ORIGINAL WAND USED BY WILHELM BRANDT IN HIS DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD TOWN! YOU'LL FIND IT MUCH BETTER THAN THE FAKE ONE YOU USED IN THE PICTURE, CHARLIE—THIS ONE'S **REALLY MAGIC!**

WELL, SHUT MAH MOUF!



FORTUNATELY, WE'RE NOT TAKING TOO GREAT A CHANCE—SINCE BRANDT HAD SAID THAT IT COULD BE USED ONLY BY HIMSELF! YOU CAN'T USE IT FOR ANY HEXES OR WHAMMIES, CHARLIE—BUT IT SHOULD MAKE A GREAT SOUVENIR!

WELL, FOLKS—YOU'VE SURE MADE YOUR GOOD ON! UNCLE CHARLIE FEEL MIGHTY PROUD! I—



I—LIKE I SAID, I FEEL—MIGHTY P-PROUD. YOU SEE—



—AS I LOOK AT THIS WAND, WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, I FEEL—



—**STRANGELY DIFFERENT!** THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT ALL THIS—I KNOW HOW TO LOOK AT YOU TOWNSPEOPLE OF REINSAGEN AND HATE!



HA-HA-HA! ISN'T HE WONDERFUL?

JUST LOOK AT HIS FACE—HE'S REALLY A WONDERFUL ACTOR!

HO-HO—HE ALMOST SOUNDS AS IF HE MEANT IT!

NOW HE MAKES WITH THE FACIAL EXPRESSIONS! BUT DURING THE PICTURE, NO—THEN HE HAS TO HAM IT UP!

HE OUGHTA BE KICKED OUTA MOVIES, THE SOANDSO!



MEANWHILE, THE MAYOR HAD FALLEN INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE OCCASION. LAUGHINGLY, HE CALLED OUT THE WORDS WHICH HAD BEEN HEARD HERE 500 YEARS AGO—

NOW I'M GOING TO GET INTO THE ACT. —"SEIZE HIM, GUARDS! RIP HIS MAGIC WAND AWAY BEFORE HE CAN USE IT!"



THEY STILL TALK, IN HUSHED TONES, OF WHAT HAPPENED THEN. IT WAS AS IF THOSE WORDS, ECHOING DOWN THE CORRIDORS OF TIME, FINISHED THE JOB WHICH THE OLD WAND HAD STARTED...

I'LL TEACH YOU, YOU SWINE! I HAVE MY WAND NOW...AND I'LL USE IT FOR REVENGE!



HA-NA-HA! I'LL MAKE YOU RUE THE DAY YOU TRIED TO CHEAT ME!



I'LL SEND DOWN DESTRUCTION FROM THE MOUNTAINS... BLAST THE TOWN...



UPWARD HE SOARED... WITH MANNY AND TIP IN PURSUIT...

WHAT...WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS, TIP? WHATEVER HAPPENED?



I CAN SEE NOW THAT THE RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN WILHELM BRANDT AND CHARLIE BOBO WASN'T JUST A COINCIDENCE! I'M BETTING THAT CHARLIE IS NOT ONLY A DESCENDANT OF BRANDT BUT HIS REINCARNATION! AND IT ONLY TOOK HOLDING THAT OLD MAGIC WAND IN HIS HAND TO BRING IT OUT IN THE OPEN!

I GET IT! THAT'S WHY THE WAND IS WORKING FOR CHARLIE...BECAUSE AS HIS REINCARNATION, HE'S REALLY BRANDT HIMSELF!

THERE HE IS NOW!

NOV! FOR AN AVALANCHE FROM THE MOUNTAINS...TO WIPE OUT THAT ACCURSED TOWN!

ONCE AGAIN, THE MAGIC WAND HAD ITS EFFECT. DOWN CAME THE AVALANCHE...



CHARLIE--STOP IT! YOU CAN'T DESTROY THE TOWN--YOU CAN'T, CHARLIE!







POOR FELLA--AT THE LAST SECOND, HE REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING--AND HE DIED TO STOP IT!



LOOK! THERE'S THE WAND OVER THERE!



I GUESS THAT THIS HAD BETTER GO TO YOU, MAYOR--

WAIT! WHAT'S THAT SHINING FROM UNDER THE ROCKS?



IT--IT'S THE GOLD THAT WILHELM BRANDT TOOK AWAY WITH HIM 500 YEARS AGO! HE MUST HAVE BEEN KILLED HERE--BUT THE MONEY'S LEFT!



THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH HERE TO TURN REINGAGEN INTO A FINE, MODERN TOWN--AND MAKE OUR PEOPLE PROSPEROUS!

PROSPEROUS--WE ENVY YOU. YOU FOUND A FORTUNE--AND WE'VE LOST EVERYTHING--



NO, MY FRIENDS--YOU HAVEN'T! IF YOU HADN'T COME HERE, THIS TREASURE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FOUND. I'LL SEE TO IT THAT ENOUGH OF IT GOES TO YOU TO EQUAL THE GREATEST PROFITS YOU COULD HAVE MADE IF THE PICTURE HAD BEEN A HIT!



AND AS THEY SAID HOMEWARD, HAPPY--

POOR CHARLIE--WE'LL NEVER FORGET HIM! THE INFLUENCE OF REINCARNATION MIGHT HAVE TEMPORARILY TURNED HIM INTO A RAGING KILLER, BUT AT THE END HIS BIG HEART SHONE THROUGH--THE HEART THAT MADE HIM SAVE THE TOWN AT THE COST OF HIS OWN LIFE!

THE END!

STRANGE BEAST

Dear Readers:-

A weird story magazine such as ours receives many contributions from outsiders who swear to their truth. We won't swear to this one...but if it's a tense, amazing yarn you're after...an eerie story that'll leave you breathless...THIS ONE'S FOR YOU!

---THE EDITOR



KURT ANDREWS, ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPLORER, HAD REPORTED FOR HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT--

WHERE TO THIS TIME CHIEF? EGYPT? HATTI? PERU?

UH-UH! THIS TIME IT'S-- SYRIA!



KURT, DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY GREAT FINDS HAVE BEEN MADE BY FOLLOWING UP FOLK LEGENDS? THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO IN SYRIA! YOU'RE GOING THERE TO FIND OUT WHATEVER YOU CAN ABOUT THE LION WITH A MAN'S HEAD!

HUH? I DON'T GET IT--WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?



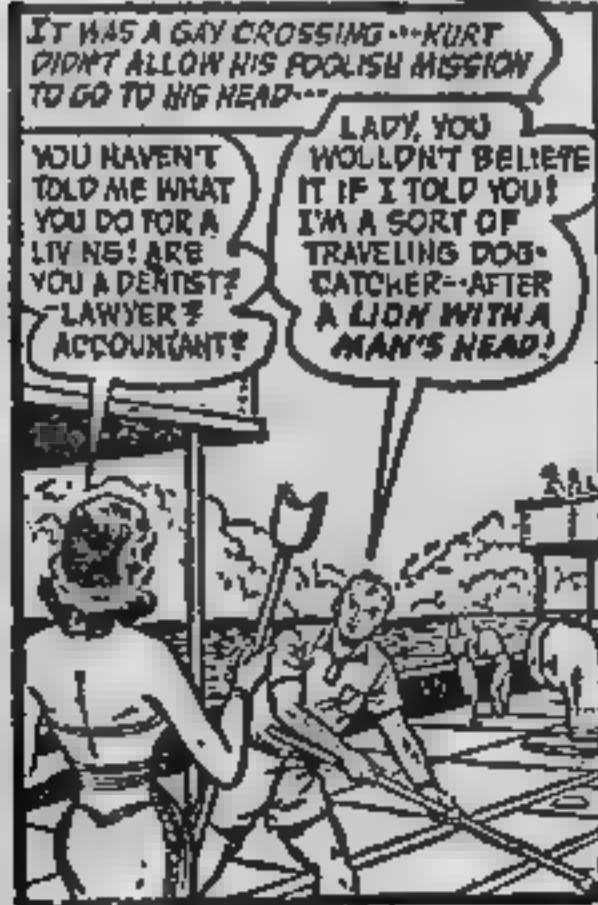


THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!
FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES, THE STORY TELLERS
OF SYRIA HAVE TOLD OF THIS THING, FEARED IT
AS A CURSE WHICH BROUGHT DEATH! IT MAY
EVEN HAVE BECOME SOME SORT OF
EVIL RELIGION!



I WANT YOU TO
GO THERE AND GET
THE LOWDOWN ON WHAT
IT'S REALLY ABOUT! SEARCH
FOR RELICS... FOR EVIDENCES
OF ITS HISTORICAL
ACTUALITY!

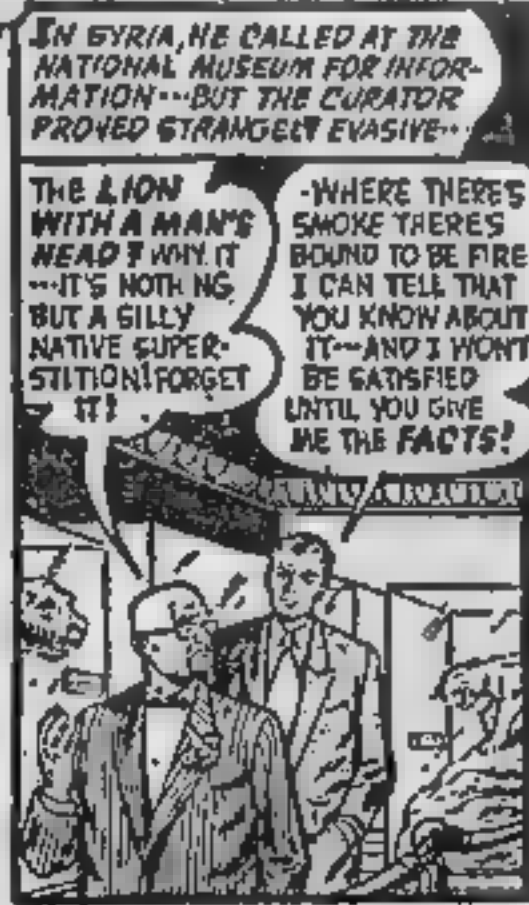
YOU SURE DO
GIVE ME THE OFFBEAT
JOBS! I DON'T EXPECT
ANYTHING OUT OF
THIS ONE BUT
I'LL SEE!



IT WAS A GAY CROSSING...KURT
DIDN'T ALLOW HIS FOOLISH MISSION
TO GO TO HIS HEAD...

YOU HAVEN'T
TOLD ME WHAT
YOU DO FOR A
LIVING! ARE
YOU A DENTIST?
-LAWYER?
ACCOUNTANT?

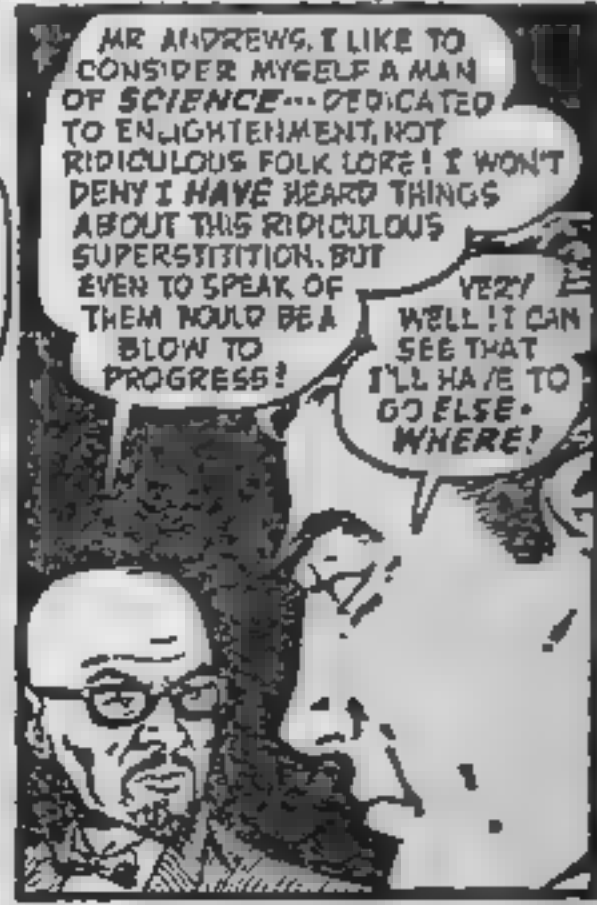
LADY, YOU
WOULDN'T BELIEVE
IT IF I TOLD YOU!
I'M A SORT OF
TRAVELING DOG-
CATCHER--AFTER
A LION WITH A
MAN'S HEAD!



IN SYRIA, HE CALLED AT THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR INFOR-
MATION...BUT THE CURATOR
PROVED STRANGELY EVASIVE...

THE LION
WITH A MAN'S
HEAD? WHY IT
--IT'S NOTHING
BUT A SILLY
NATIVE SUPER-
STITION! FORGET
IT!

-WHERE THERE'S
SMOKE THERE'S
BOUND TO BE FIRE!
I CAN TELL THAT
YOU KNOW ABOUT
IT--AND I WON'T
BE SATISFIED
UNTIL YOU GIVE
ME THE FACTS!



MR. ANDREWS, I LIKE TO
CONSIDER MYSELF A MAN
OF SCIENCE...DEDICATED
TO ENLIGHTENMENT, NOT
RIDICULOUS FOLK LORE! I WON'T
DENY I HAVE HEARD THINGS
ABOUT THIS RIDICULOUS
SUPERSTITION, BUT
EVEN TO SPEAK OF
THEM WOULD BE A
BLOW TO
PROGRESS!

VERY
WELL! I CAN
SEE THAT
I'LL HAVE TO
GO ELSE-
WHERE!



FINALLY, BRIBERY SECURED THE FIRST LEAD...

I AM WISE IN THE
OLD WAYS AND TALES OF
MY PEOPLE! I CAN TELL
YOU THE STORY, AS IT CAME
DOWN THROUGH THE
CENTURIES...

OKAY,
GRANDPOP
--SHOOT!



"WHO KNOWS HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAVE PASSED?"
THE OLD MAN BEGAN. "IT ALL STARTED AT THE COURT OF THE
PRINCESS ASTARELLA--FAIREST FLOWER OF THE EAST..."

THE MARRIAGE
SUITORS FROM BEYOND
THE SEA HAVE ARRIVED,
OH PRINCESS!

LET THEM COME
INTO MY PRESENCE!



NEVER HAVE
I SEEN SUCH
BEAUTY!

SHE MUST BE
MINE! NOTHING SHALL
STAND IN THE WAY!



PRINCE ROLBANA WON HER FAVOR IMMEDIATELY...

...AND IN THE
WEDDING CONTRACT
I SHALL INCLUDE
A THOUSAND
ELEPHANTS, ALL
LOADED WITH
GOLD AND
JEWELS!

'TIS THE OFFER
OF A GREAT
PRINCE!



BUT THE SECOND SUITOR WAS... DIFFERENT!

I AM CALLED VOLERO... AND I
COME FROM NO LAND THAT YOU KNOW!
I BRING NEITHER GOLD NOR JEWELS,
FAIR PRINCESS... BUT I CAN MAKE
YOU ALL-POWERFUL THROUGH THE
LION WITH A MAN'S
HEAD!



HA-HA-HA!
THE MAN'S A
JESTER-
OR A
FOOL!

A LION WITH THE
HEAD OF A MAN... RIDICULOUS!



LAUGHTER, LAUGHTER... AND IN THE HEART OF
VOLERO, HATRED GREW! AS HE DEPARTED...

SO SHE PREFERS THAT
CREATURE TO ME! WE
SHALL SEE!



AND SOON THE BELLS OF THE KINGDOM RANG OUT THE
NEWS OF THE COMING MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS ASTARELLA
AND PRINCE ROLBANA! FROM EVERYWHERE CAME RICH
GIFTS... AND EVEN VOLERO CAME FORWARD TO MAKE
HIS CONTRIBUTION...

I HAD HARDLY
EXPECTED YOU
HERE AT SUCH
A TIME!

I HAVE COME TO
SHOW YOU HOW
GRACEFULLY I CAN
ACCEPT DEFEAT!
AND HERE IS A
TOKEN I BRING
YOU IN EVIDENCE
OF THAT FACT!





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